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COLORADO SPRINGS
Independent

MISFIRE

How city leaders left residents — and their heroes — exposed during the Waldo Canyon tragedy 21

By Pam Zubeck

Bryan Oller

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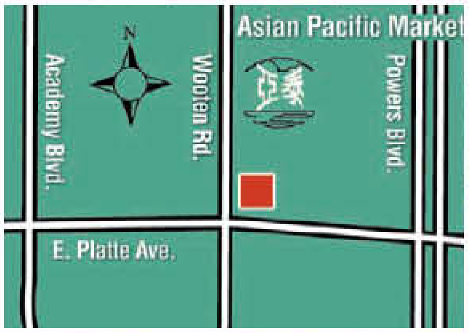
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Best Of 2012: decked out in *Indy* red and black.

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Give!: Dog days

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Asia has an ear-to-ear grin, a happy tail and boundless energy. She loves to bask in the sun in her favorite chair. She's devoted to her humans, and they return the feeling. Asia's breed, American pit bull terrier, has one of the worst reputations in the canine kingdom. But this sweet dog just seems grateful for her second chance at a happy life.

Appetite: Full steam ahead

34

There comes a time in every local's life when a poor family member, probably hailing from a flat, boring part of the country, arrives in town yearning for that quintessential elevated experience. Here's where you can save a whole lot of time and just hit the new west-side location of Colorado Mountain Brewery.

Film: Epic flail

41

All good stories deserve embellishment," says the wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen) to Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. And he says it with a twinkle, as though he somehow knew it would wind up being quoted back by snarky critics who wouldn't be able to resist.

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On the Cover
Photo by Bryan Oller.

UpComing

The end-of-year countdown has begun. You may just be figuring out your champagne-popping plans, but for the 58 local nonprofits participating in the *Indy*'s ***Give!* Campaign** this year, Dec. 31st has been on their radar for a while. One of the best gifts you can give this holiday season is a gift of financial support. Visit indygive.com to learn more, make a donation, and get a warm, fuzzy feeling in your heart (along with a package of cool rewards).

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Rick Jackson

Be A Winner!

Our weather has just started to cool down, but the **Beach Boys** are coming to town to inspire thoughts of the *Endless Summer*. Win a pair of tickets to see them live Dec. 28 at the Pikes Peak Center by visiting csindy.com and signing up for the IndyBlast.

way to grow

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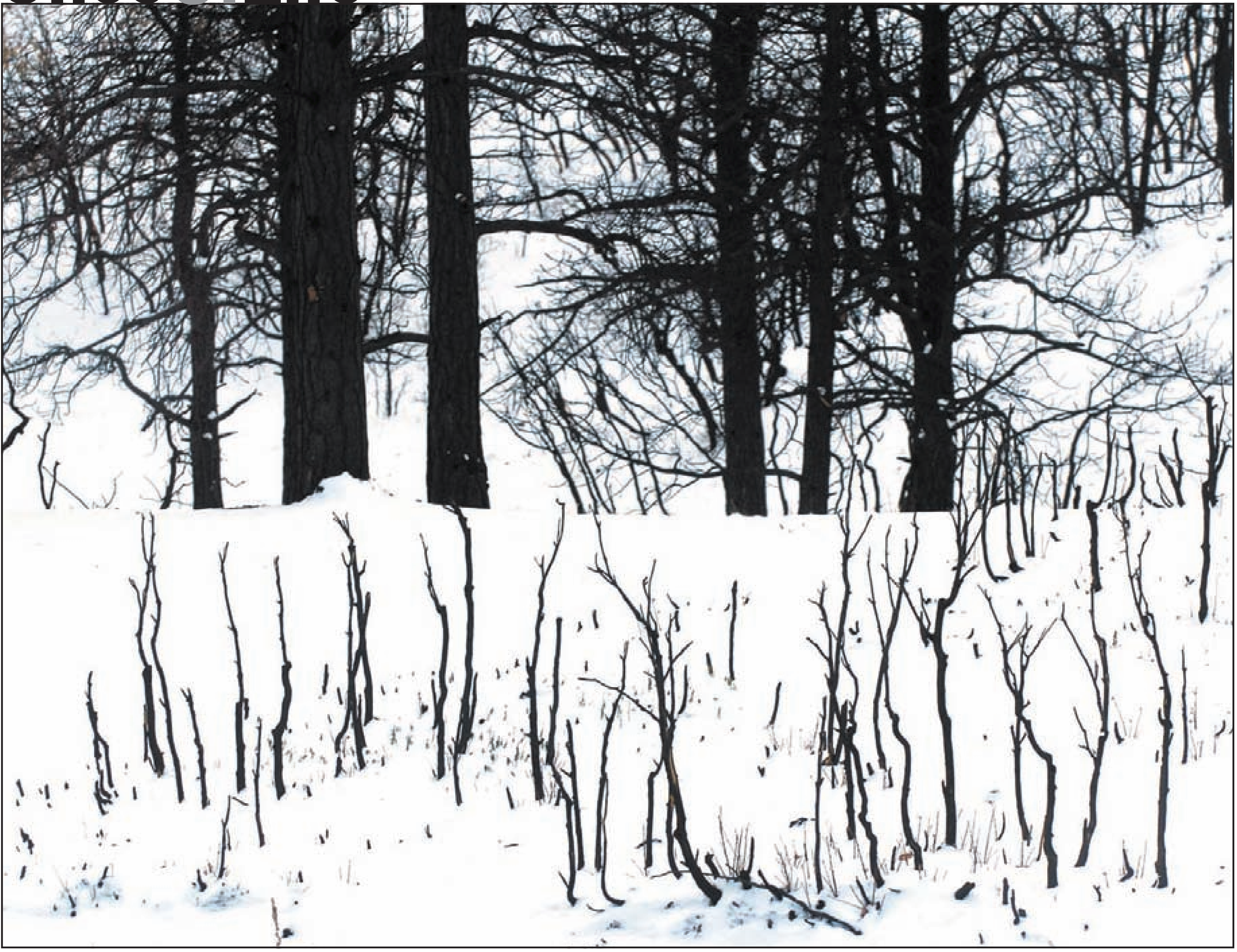

Bryan Oller

A welcomed winter scene on Chuckwagon Road this past weekend: the beautiful contrast of black and white, small and large, and sweet silence.

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Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

If it ain't broke...

Panhandling as a First Amendment right: Buried in all the rhetoric from both sides was the fact that there already are plenty of laws on the books. I think we, as citizens, need to know those laws — clue: downtown businesses might help people know their rights and the laws — and hold our City Council and law enforcement accountable to do their jobs. When you see someone breaking the panhandler laws, call the cops. If the cops are too busy to respond today, because let's face the fact that there could be a rape or murder happening — deal with it.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'To allow drilling in highly prized zones tells me we've lost our soul and that we value drilling and profit more highly than culture and lifestyle.'

— City Councilor Tim Leigh, explaining that he'd change his vote on the city's oil and gas drilling ordinance to preserve the integrity of residential areas.

But chances are that the criminal will repeat the pattern of behavior — so keep calling the cops. You can make change happen by being committed to the cause of truth and justice. But bringing out the big guns of the ACLU vs. City Council just shows me that there is a lot of posturing and politicking going on. What confidence can you really have in a city government that just keeps buying more ink to put more things on paper instead sticking to their word as it is already written. And I fully support the ACLU — but really *this*? This is where you are choosing to draw a line in the sand?

Cut the rhetoric. We all need to just do our jobs. Report crimes when you see them. Police respond to crimes. City Council is free to go about the business of fixing things that are really broken vs. things that are not.

— Charlie Mussi
Colorado Springs

Pit bull exception

Gandhi stated that a society's moral character is revealed by how it treats its animals. Certainly mindful people will want animals to be treated humanely and not discarded like so much trash. One of our cats was adopted from a neighbor and the other one came from the Humane Society.

We do have to question your comments about pit bulls, however ("Tough world for canines," City Sage, Nov. 28). It's not a matter of whether these dogs can be faithful and loving and loved companions (although the thought of four pit bulls in bed with me or anyone seems wildly bizarre).

The problem is that these animals were specifically bred and developed to fight and kill, and their natural inclinations sometimes override loyalty to their master. Couple this natural inclination with inbred "hold and shake" jaws and "gameness" (high pain threshold) and you have a killing machine that's very hard to defend against should they decide to attack. Just ask the numerous victims of pit bull attacks in our city during the past year.

This line of reasoning has led Denver to outlaw the possession of these animals. In 2005 the Colorado Supreme Court upheld Denver's ban, stating "pit bulls inflict more serious wounds than other breeds. They tend to attack the deep muscles, to hold on, to shake, and to cause ripping of tissues. Pit bull attacks were compared to shark attacks."

No one is saying that these dogs can't be lovable — just like those tigers in the American Furniture Warehouse commercials. But by now it's well known that tigers are ill-advised household pets. Pit bulls might seem like the perfect watchdog, but if they seriously injure the next-door neighbor or a family member, that's a real problem and possibly a great tragedy.

— Paul Dahlsten
Colorado Springs

Fracked-up water

As of this writing, it appears that local fracking is to take place in spite of much opposition. May I cordially suggest that the water that is forced into the ground with all of its toxic chemicals be sucked back up into tankers and the water delivered to the owners and managers of Hilcorp Energy Co. to use at their offices and homes.

The tankers can be hooked up to their plumbing and used for dishwashing, laundry, drinking, cooking and bathing. This seems to be the only reasonable thing to do with this water that is being forced into our water systems and wells. If this water is good enough for our local supplies and streams then it should be good enough for their private use.

— Jane Madden
Colorado Springs

Rethink fracking

City Council's recent preliminary decision to allow fracking within city limits is alarming. Residents in the Springs and El Paso County need to wake up and curb this shortsighted and foolhardy decision by their elected officials.

As a lifelong resident of the Springs I can only assume that Councilors Tim Leigh, Angela Dougan, Merv Bennett, Brandy Williams, Lisa Czelatdko and Bernie Herpin, who voted in favor of the oil companies' request to drill, are not getting all of the facts. Here are just a few reasons why fracking in beautiful Colorado Springs is an outrageous proposition:

- Fracking is an extremely water-intensive process where millions of gallons of fluid — typically a mix of water, sand and chemicals, including cancer-causing benzene — are injected underground at high pressure to fracture the rock surrounding an oil or gas well. Colorado Springs is suffering from a multi-year drought and municipal authorities are already scrambling to ensure enough drinking water for the city's future. By Council's reasoning it is okay to allow oil and gas companies to not only use this precious water, but to poison it.
- Fracking is exempt from the Safe Drinking Water Act due to a loophole negotiated in part by Halliburton in 2005.
- Fracking will not ease the local or even the national energy situation. Natural gas generated by fracking is being sold in foreign markets to maximize corporate oil and gas profits. It is not necessarily available for domestic use. So, the Colorado Springs City Council has voted to trade the city's beauty and water supply for profits benefitting oil and gas companies? Really?

Over 250 communities in the U.S. have passed resolutions to stop fracking, and Vermont, France and Bulgaria have stopped it.

I urge everyone to look into this matter and to guard against the slanted arguments put forth by the oil companies. Then call your city councilor and ask them to change their vote.

— Carol Kennis Lopez
Albuquerque, N.M.

LongStoryShort

It would be midnight or after when the siren screamed shrilly through the rural Kansas night, telling me my dad would be heading for a fire. Soon the door would slam, and his pickup would start and rumble away. Without protective clothing back then, in the 1950s, he and my granddad would volunteer to help save someone's house or barn or haystack.

Decades later, my husband would be scarred for life as a volunteer firefighter, when a blazing roof fell onto his back.

Firefighters have always chosen to take risks, it's true. But firefighting has come a long way, and a large city should give its firefighters every possible advantage, even in the worst fires.

It's been almost six months since Springs firefighters took on the Waldo Canyon blaze. Even before most were dispatched to Mountain Shadows, two residents died. When the firefighters did get into the subdivision, they dealt not only with ungodly flames, but also unmitigated confusion.

Our cover story, "Misfire," starting on p. 21, provides new information in extraordinary detail from firefighter reports never before made public. Those reports, along with other documents and interviews, paint a picture that won't be easy for some to accept. Especially since as of now, we're being asked to simply trust the city's own review of how it all went down.

As the author of a 2011 University of Georgia study about firefighter fatalities wrote, "As a society, we ought to make the effort to make it safer." And that's the best argument for seeking an independent review of the Waldo disaster.

— Pam Zubeck

History repeating itself?

As a student of history, I have been struck by the unintended consequences of our decisions within the last century of progress. Several examples should suffice. First, from the 1890s through the 1920s farmers on the western plains were encouraged to plow up the prairies to plant more wheat. When the price was low, farmers just plowed up more dry-land prairie and planted more wheat. And what was the result? An ecosystem that had been stable for millennia was destroyed and my parents and grandparents barely survived the 1930s dust bowl.

Another misstep was the feeding of antibiotics to beef cattle and other farm animals to mitigate crowded conditions in feed lots and make animals put on weight more quickly. We now realize that we have bred supergerms.

Currently, we are faced with the economic promises of hydrolic fracking. There is a windfall to be made from this natural gas boom. Virtually unlimited clean-burning fuels right below our city. But does everyone know that just one well destroys 5,000,000 gallons of water, lacing it with toxic chemicals? This is water that cannot be used for agriculture, cannot be filtered, or be used to put out fires; it cannot be recycled.

I got out my most recent utilities bill to see just how much I personally pay for beautifully clean, sweet water. For the first 999 cubic feet of water I pay just under 3 cents per cubic foot. I then pay just over 5 cents per cubic foot up to 1,500 cubic feet. The companies who frack for natural gas will use 66,845 cubic feet (5,000,000 gallons) of water for just one well. What will their usage rate be? Why should I xeriscape my property or try to conserve if we have all of this water to frack with?

— Elaine M. Doudna
Colorado Springs

Editor's note: Over the weekend, Councilor Tim Leigh announced he would indeed change his vote during a second reading. For more, see p. 18.

Looking for integrity

As another right-wing-manufactured crisis grinds to a climax in Washington, its cynical view of voters in general, and seniors specifically, astounds me.

Back to 2010 — the tea party's takeover of the House is sparked by a spate of ads accusing those hideous Democrats of cutting $500 billion from Medicare. Fueled by the deep pockets of FreedomWorks, AFP and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, victory is achieved. Huzzah.

Fast forward to the presidential/vice presidential debates of 2012. Nominees Romney and Ryan take the administration to task for cutting $716 billion from Medicare through Obamacare. Never mind that Paul Ryan's tea party-backed budget used that very same "saving" to slay the deficit dragon.

Two weeks ago, Speaker Boehner sends his counter-proposal to President Obama with an $800 billion cut in Medicare. Hypocrisy?

Look, Speaker, I understand that negotiating with Cantor's shiv in your back is uncomfortable, but you cannot really think the public doesn't notice this verbal backflip, can you?

Denial is tough to resolve. The Republicans vowed to make President Obama a one-term president and failed miserably; predictably, they need a target for their venom. Why don't they target the source: the echo chamber — the right's commentary-entertainment complex that lied to them. All of the strategies and polls and pronouncements of Rush, Sean, Karl and Billy-Boy were so much hooey, and now it's time for the adults to take back the room and have a serious talk.

Where is your integrity, Mr. Speaker?

— Steve Schriener
Colorado Springs

Bach and Drake

On the whole, I am very pleased with the job Strong Mayor Bach is doing. There's a new sheriff in town and he's cutting waste (and personnel) left and right. He's certainly in a sticky wicket when it comes to our dirty power plant just south of downtown.

I'm not surprised to hear the preliminary results concerning the volume and toxicity of the plant's pollutive output. I have some friends who bought cheap houses downwind from the plant, and many have breathing problems (one died of lung cancer).

The budgetary restraints that Bach and the city are facing seem to favor privatization of power production in the Springs. What are the long- and short-term effects on utility rates? I think it's safe to say they will increase.

This dilemma requires serious thought on the part of our leaders moving into the future. I'm assuming that the world doesn't end on 12/21 (much to the dismay of malcontents who would prefer a global reset), and we must prepare for ethical, clean, affordable electricity going into the next stage of development. Privatization of utilities usually results in higher rates for the consumer. This increase may motivate consumers to use less power. My cinema-quality, home theater uses 27 watts. Reduction of consumption is the ultimate answer.

— Kenton Lloyd
Colorado Springs

GetInvolved

Record this

Attend this conversation with Johnson, who will speak on "her philosophies and practices as they relate to the operations of the clerk's office" as well as how businesses can establish a relationship with the office. Hosted by the Colorado Springs Diversity Forum. RSVP to sstohlmann@comcast.net to attend.

A Conversation with Colorado Springs City Clerk Sarah B. Johnson
Thursday, Dec. 13, noon
Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., free
Contact: csdiversityforum.org

Gearing up

Donate hams, paper products like paper plates, napkins and hot and cold cups, as well as metal teaspoons to the Marian House Soup Kitchen, which needs help in preparation for Christmas Day meals.

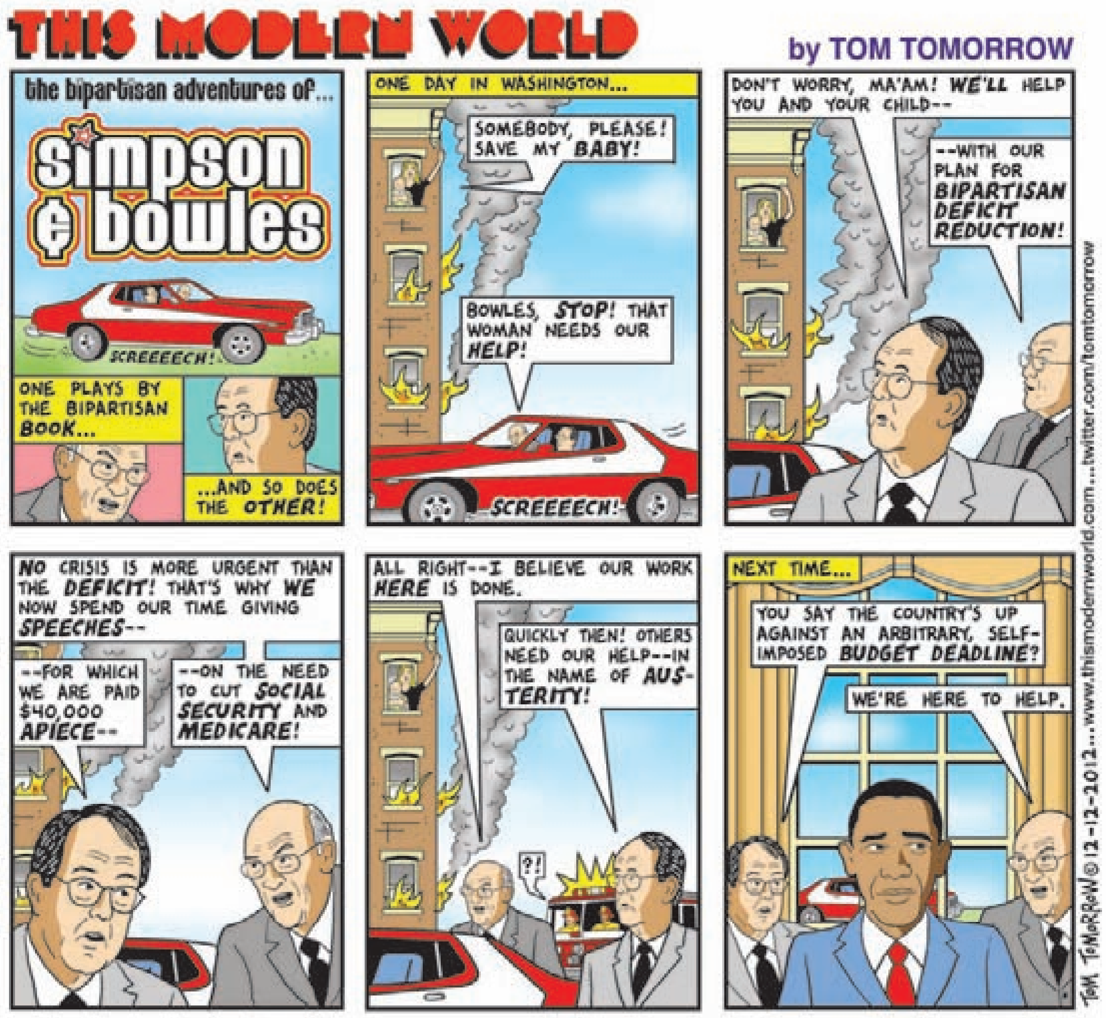
Marian House Soup Kitchen call
14 W. Bijou St.
Contact: 475-7314, ccharitiescc.org

Help line

Sign up for this 10-week class with the Colorado Springs Police Department. The academy will prepare volunteers for duties such as crisis intervention, follow-up support and educating victims on their rights and helpful community resources. Applications and requirement information available online.

Victim Advocacy Training Academy
Classes begin Feb. 6
Contact: 444-7529, tinyurl.com/abmyz9m

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 50.


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
the bipartisan adventures of...
simpson & bowles
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ONE DAY IN WASHINGTON...
SOMEBODY, PLEASE! SAVE MY BABY!
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Tax fairness

An open letter to the President of the United States:

As you are trying to avoid the cliff, during your negotiations to raise the marginal rate of the wealthiest 2 percent, insist on taxing all earned income (wages, salaries and commissions) and all unearned income (capital gains, dividends and interest) at the same rate. Think of it as fairness. Why should income that is received by investment be taxed at a much lower rate than income derived from working? Is it a different color or spend differently or feel different?

When the Republicans took over in 1921 (president and Congress) they lowered the tax rate of capital gains to 15 percent. It always remained less than the marginal rate until the Republican president (Ronald Reagan) and a Democratic Congress raised it to the same rate as ordinary income in 1983. It remained at that rate until a Democratic president (Bill Clinton) and a Republican Congress lowered it to 20 percent a decade later.

The rate for capital gains and dividends was lowered to 15 percent by a Republican president (George Bush) and a Republican Congress. Eighty percent of all unearned income goes to the top 20 percent. So even if you raise the marginal rate for the 2 percent, the wealthy will still not be paying their fair share.

All of the top 10 wealthiest people in America derive most, if not all, of their income from dividends and capital gains. The top three and the 10th are the only ones that actually made their money. The other six inherited theirs. Shouldn't they pay the same rate, or more, as the people who make a lot less money and actually perform some work? Mr. President, think of FAIRNESS.

— David M. Justice
Colorado Springs

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Publisher's Note

By John Weiss

Game on, Anschutz

First things first: A hearty congratulations to Philip Anschutz and the Clarity Media Group for purchasing the *Gazette*. The Denver businessman appears to be following in the hundred-year-old footsteps of our greatest community-builder — gold miner, entrepreneur and atheist Spencer Penrose, who not only co-owned the *Colorado Springs Telegraph*, but also built the Broadmoor Hotel.

Just as he has done with his September 2011 purchase of the Broadmoor, Anschutz has pledged to significantly invest in his latest acquisition. His publisher and editor, both new to town, have vowed to quickly add staff, pages and local content.

To grow and flourish, Colorado Springs needs to have a sustained narrative.

Not surprisingly, we have been inundated with questions about how the *Independent* will react to the Anschutz acquisition.

To be blunt, my initial reaction: *AUUUGH!*

For who in their right mind would want to compete head-on with a passionate entrepreneur and philanthropist worth in excess of $7 billion? (Yes, that's with a 'B'!)

But on reflection, I've realized we have little to fear. If the newly reinvigorated *Gazette* does indeed get better, hurray! It will be a huge win not only for the Pikes Peak region, but for our paper as well.

For the past decade, the *Gazette* has been in freefall, with at least eight different men filling their publisher's chair. As a result of repeated cutbacks and gross mismanagement, circulation has plummeted. Today its weekday, paid, home-delivered print circulation is 48,516, down from more than 106,000 a decade ago.

While all the talk is digital these days, print circulation is still the meat and potatoes of newspapers. As with almost all daily newspapers, the *Gazette*'s largest single source of income is from free-standing inserts, the pre-printed coupons and ad circulars that very often contain far more pages than the newspaper itself.

Without Anschutz, our daily would have likely continued its spiral downward. This would have been disastrous, for without a decent daily, a city lacks coherence.

To grow and flourish, Colorado Springs needs to have a sustained narrative, one that not only reports the basic who, what, where and how of what transpired here, but also focuses on the why. Despite the explosion of tweets, blogs and websites, as well as traditional radio and television outlets, most of that reporting done today still is performed by traditional newspapers.

For the past two decades, our goal at the *Indy* has been to craft a more complex, more tolerant, more inclusive, truly sustainable and home-grown narrative to compete with the *Gazette*'s libertarian/hard Christian right view.

Media matters

	Total readers age 18-54	Percentage of target market
Independent	90,467	27.5%
Gazette Section 1 *(Mon.-Sat.)*	63,236	19.2%

Source: Media Audit, Winter 2012

And if past is prologue, the *Gazette*'s editorial slant will remain rigidly hard right. For decades, Anschutz has funded anti-environmental groups and supported so called "traditional family values." He helped bankroll Colorado's 1992 anti-gay ballot measure Amendment 2, which was eventually ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition to the daily *Oklahoman* and the *Gazette*, Anschutz also owns the *Examiner* chain of free newspapers. These papers run conservative commentary from some of the more divisive voices, including Byron York (*National Review*); David Freddoso (author, *The Case Against Barack Obama*); and Michael Barone (FOX News).

Thus with the rise of Anschutz, the Pikes Peak region needs the *Independent* more than ever. And unlike in the past, we are in a position of great strength — for today a quarter of local adults pick up the *Independent*, with more 18-to-54-year-olds reading our paper than the first section of the daily *Gazette* (see chart).

So we are confident we can compete with the *Gazette*'s new billionaire owner. But we do have a caveat.

Today we place Anschutz on notice that he must play fair, for previous *Gazette* owners have often acted like bullies. To cite one example: For over a decade, the *Gazette* threatened to cut off all support to many local nonprofits if they purchased a single ad in the *Independent*. In some cases, the *Gazette* bluntly warned that it would stop supporting local nonprofits if they even accepted donated ads from us.

Here is our warning: If the *Gazette* plays dirty, we will mobilize our lawyers and our readers to ensure fair play.

Fortunately for us and our community, new *Gazette* publisher Dan Steever seems like a smart and reasonable guy. (He even bought me lunch.) So we expect, and look forward to, a good old-fashioned newspaper clash for the hearts, minds and direction of our beloved city.

Game on.

Scouting out the fire story

One rule in restaurants is never to let the diners know if there's a crisis in the kitchen. The same rule applied in our city during the Waldo Canyon Fire — it was essential that during those days, our leaders did everything in their power to keep things as calm and orderly as possible. And Mayor Bach and other community leaders did a masterful job of assuring us that things were largely under control.

But now that our community is formally examining what actually transpired, we must move beyond platitudes about our valiant first responders, though heroic they indeed were. The evidence uncovered in Pam Zubeck's insightful investigative cover story on p. 21 reveals far more disorganization in the fire's early days than the city's initial after-action report indicates.

Our ultimate goal is not to point fingers or assign blame, but to ensure we all know what actually happened so we can be better prepared when future disasters strike, from fire to flood, from drought to a terrorist attack.

Let's harken back to the Boy Scout call to "Be Prepared." The first step in doing so is to really understand what actually happened, warts and all.

Give! and let live

Many people understandably have donor fatigue after the Waldo Canyon Fire. But the 58 local, wonderful and inspired nonprofits participating in this year's *Indy Give!* 2012 campaign merit our support. And they are competing for more than a quarter million dollars in matching-grant and friendly-competition awards donated by local businesses and foundations.

In the first five weeks of the campaign, more than $300,000 has been raised via 4,000 donations.

For our worthy nonprofits to meet their challenges, at least another $250,000 must be raised by the campaign's end, midnight Dec. 31.

If you have not given yet, please check out the *Give!* campaign today. You will be amazed and awed by the powerful work of these small, yet mighty local nonprofits. (Plus, you'll get great thank-you rewards.) To read all about them, and how *Give!* works, go to indygive.com.

— jweiss@csindy.com

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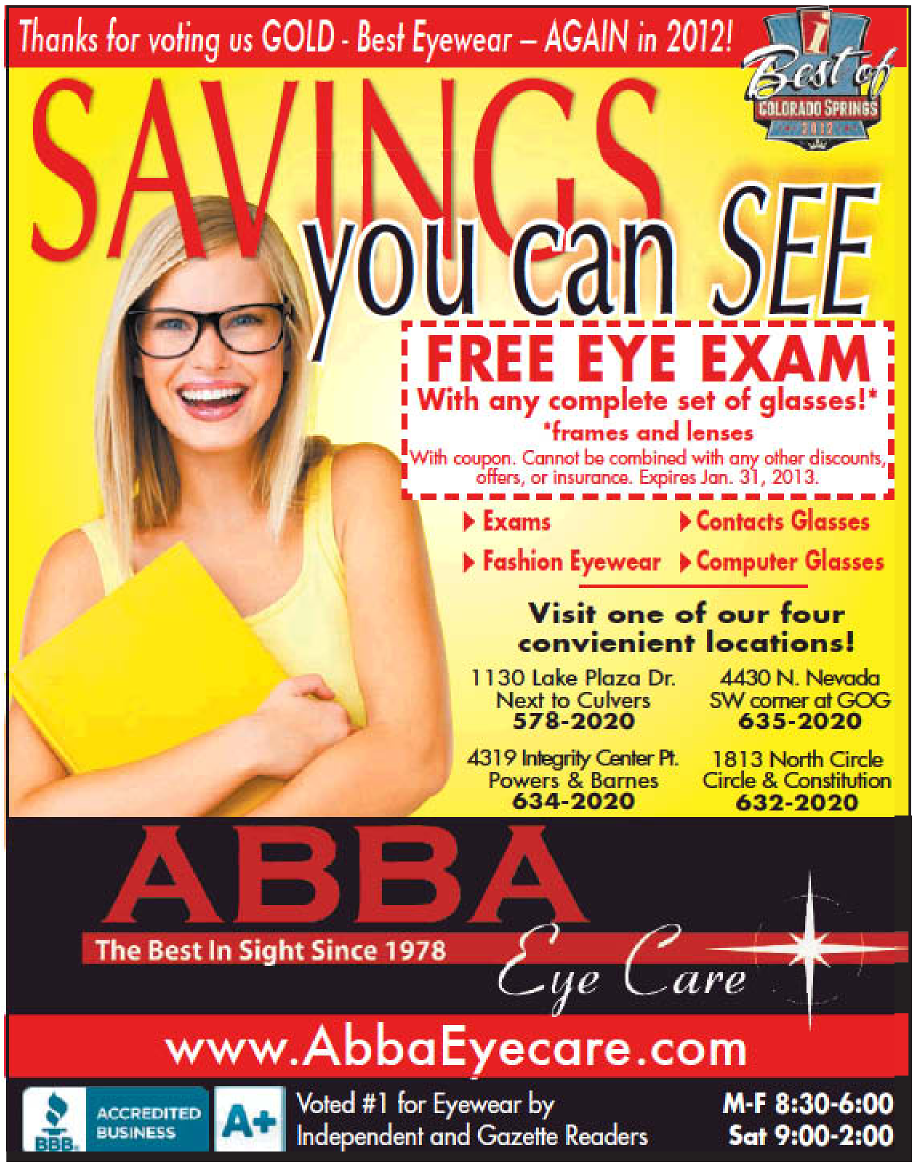
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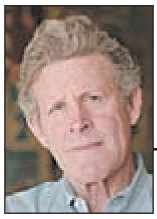


CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

The inevitability of age

During a joyously misspent youth, I thought of old age as one might think of northeast Wyoming — a singularly bleak and unpleasant place where no sane person would willingly go. One's life journey should be a cheerful excursion through sunny uplands, golden beaches, sparkling seas and gleaming cities, ending in some agreeably distant nirvana.

Aching knees? Uncertain finances? A body that can't do what it's supposed to do, like climb up a shaky ladder and fix a rotting sill on a second-story window? That was not part of the narrative. Old age would see me ensconced in a leather chair before the fireplace, faithful dogs curled up at my feet, re-reading **Tolstoy**, or **Evelyn Waugh**, or **Winston Churchill**'s magisterial history of World War II.

And here I am, with all of those things. The dogs snoring on the carpet, the comfortable blue leather couches (nicely mended with black duct tape where the dogs have scratched through), Churchill on the shelf. Winston will have to wait, though — snowy Sundays are reserved for the NFL.

I'll be sitting on my porch with an eight-pack of PBR.

I have an interesting job, a loving (and lovely!) spouse, great friends, an office with a window, four new tires on the ancient SUV, and a newly rebuilt road bike. It's a great life, exactly what I hoped life in the 70s might be.

Aching knees? Advil. Rotting window sills? Forget 'em. "You realize," says my friend **Robert Shonkwiler**, "that there are people who will come to your house, do those repairs, give you a bill, and then you give them money."

Robert, I get all of that except the "give them money" part.

John Barlow, a rancher in northeast Wyoming, once described its climate: "We have three seasons. Winter, Mud and August." In the northeast Wyoming of old age, August comes first. The sun may be shining, but winter awaits.

In the dozen years since I moved to the west side, the neighborhood has changed. Its physical geography remains the same — block after block of century-old houses, some carefully renovated, others picturesquely dilapidated.

The human geography is different. The lissome women who once floated in and out of my next-door neighbor **Mike**'s cottage are now white-haired ladies of a certain age. The kids across the street are grown and gone, with children of their own. Two blocks away, enrollment at West Middle School has plummeted and School District 11 is considering closure.

Ours is a neighborhood of old people. In 2000, a friendly retired couple living across the alley welcomed us to the west side. He died a few years ago, but she's still there. Their son stops by frequently to help out, and she's managed to avoid the fate we all dread.

The assisted living center. The nursing home. The last stop, the room where you'll die.

Every couple I know has made the same vow to each other: "You won't go there, as long as I'm alive." But can they manage? Most likely, there won't be a choice. One or both will be carried away by Alzheimer's, the infirmities of age, illness or accident.

It'd be nice to age in place, to stay in our home for many years to come. That probably won't be possible — like most west-side houses, ours is far from wheelchair-accessible. Upgrading would be unaffordable for us — and, I suspect, for most of our neighbors.

We're a tiny part of the slow demographic revolution transforming not only Old Colorado City, but America itself. What will you do with us when we can't drive, can't work, and don't want to leave our homes? Will you cut our meager benefits and let us rot? Or will you come in accessible vans and cart us off to the government-funded storage units where the old go to dissipate their pitiful savings and create revenue for the health-care industry?

Go ahead and try. I'll be sitting on my porch with an eight-pack of PBR, the overgrown yard patrolled by a pack of snarling curs, shaking my cane, muttering incoherent curses, fighting for the life I so prize. You'll never take me alive! Let me rot in peace.

And afterward, the neighbors will take note.

"They took away Old Man Hazlehurst," they'll say. "They tried to get Mike, too, but his girlfriend already had him committed …"

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Smoke gets in your eyes

It was harrowing to view panoramic aerial shots of last summer's Waldo Canyon Fire on the nightly news. However, it had a way of soliciting your full, undivided attention to witness it as an in-progress event from your own front yard, lungs burning. Six months later, it still evokes strong emotions.

Canda McCombe from ***Security*** is an ***accountant***

Where were you when you heard about the Waldo fire? What did you think? I work out of my house, so I was at home. It didn't really get on my radar at first. I never dreamed it would get as big as it did.

Relate your closest brush with disaster. The summer before last my family had to be evacuated from a camp near Westcliffe because of a forest fire.

If given five minutes to flee, what would you grab out of your house? My computer and the safe I bought after the Waldo fire to keep my important papers in.

Is there a lesson you learned from the Waldo fire? Be prepared. No matter what the neighborhood, disaster can happen to any of us at any time.

Douglas Rouse from ***Old Colorado City*** is a ***mural artist***

Where were you and what did you think when you heard about the Waldo fire? My wife and I were in Sedona, Arizona, where I was painting a mural. We were in a panic because my sister and my wife's mother and sister, who live in Mountain Shadows, had been ordered to evacuate.

What's your closest brush with a major disaster otherwise? A tornado went through an area near where I lived as a kid in Kansas.

If given five minutes to evacuate your residence, what would you grab? My computer and my dog. We went through that drill last summer. Just in case, we had someone pack up a few of our things while we drove back to Colorado on the big Tuesday of the fire.

Did the Waldo fire teach you anything? How unimportant "stuff" is. How little we really need.

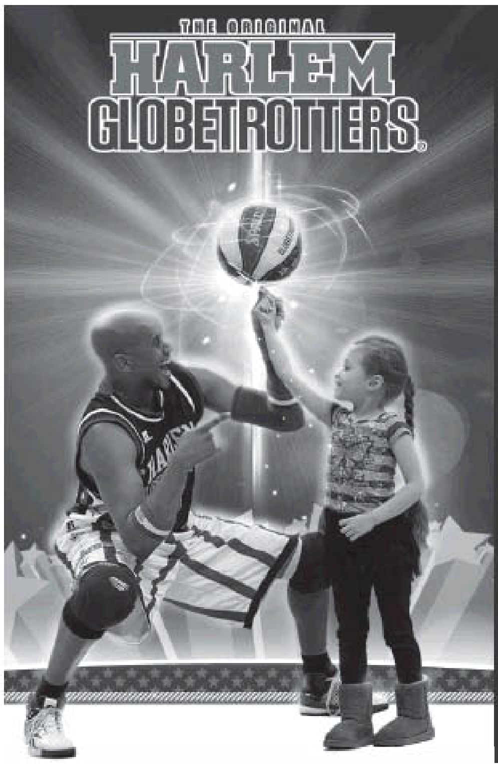
Simon Waldbaum from ***Fountain*** is a ***science teacher***

Where were you and what did you think when you first heard about the Waldo Canyon Fire? I was on the Western Slope of Colorado, but my wife was in our Rockrimmon home. She had to evacuate for two days. Things were really up in the air.

What's your closest brush with disaster? That was by far my closest, but I've been in some impressive lightning storms while camping.

What would you grab from home if you had five minutes to evacuate? My computer and the file cabinet that has my birth certificate and passport and such.

— Bob Campbell



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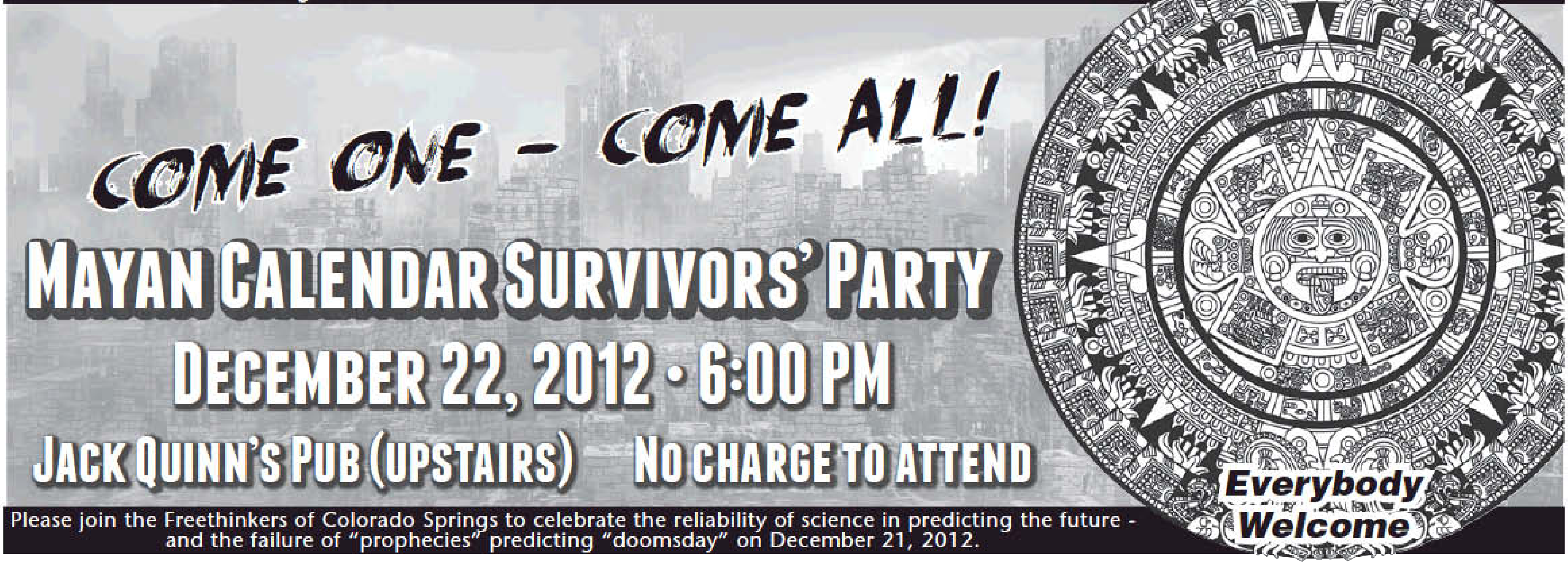

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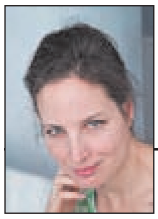


NationalView

By Lucinda Rosenfeld

More images, much less meaning

There was a time when you'd come back from Spain, or even just the Jersey Shore, with a couple of rolls of film tucked safely into your toiletry bag. A few days later, you'd find yourself in line at the photo desk of your local pharmacy, waiting to retrieve your developed images with a sense of nervous anticipation.

It took willpower to make it onto the sidewalk without sneaking a peek inside the envelope. Invariably, half of the pictures were out of focus. Sometimes, you'd find that your head had been cut off. But typically there would be at least one fantastic shot as well, with all of you looking radiant and spontaneous, and a few more than that would be passable. For your efforts, you'd come away with something with which to fill a few pages of an album, with enough room left over to add the occasional matchbook front or dried flower.

The digital photography revolution roughly coincided with the births of my two daughters, now ages 4 and 6. Finally, I had something to immortalize in an album besides my dysfunctional romantic life. And so I immortalized — and then some. No event seemed too trivial to capture. When they dressed up in tutus and swim goggles just to be silly, when they danced suggestively to Miley Cyrus, I felt compelled to capture the image for posterity's sake.

For a while, I kept up with the sorting, naming, uploading and ordering (and editing of) prints. The albums featuring my daughters as newborns are both masterpieces of discernment.

It was sometime in 2009 that I fell behind, then so far behind that I nearly stopped taking pictures of them, since the very thought of new images of their grinning punims became synonymous in my mind with hard labor. Indeed, for my past efforts, I now had a hard drive filled with hundreds if not thousands of photo files that I lacked the energy to go through. Never mind to look at again.

On my bimonthly to-do lists, along with "Clean out basement" and "Write thank-you note to Mom's best friend for educational toys received a year ago, Christmas," I now found myself adding, "Deal with photo nightmare."

Photographic memory

The years passed. Digital photography and I were at a stalemate until October, when my dad died. It wasn't unexpected, but it still shocked me in a way that only the child of a deceased parent can understand. I simply could not believe that he was gone from this Earth — that he'd never totter up the front steps of my house again, as he did every other Sunday, and hook his cane around the interior knob of the front door.

I couldn't believe I'd never see his face again either, even if the blank and gaunt one that I witnessed at the end bore almost no resemblance to the quietly beaming Dad I'd known in the family, or the quietly intense one I'd see practicing, teaching or onstage. (He was a cellist.)

The loss of my father and the resulting disorientation made me crave paper photos in a way I hadn't in years, especially ones of him before Parkinson's disease stole his last facial expression. They were no substitute for the man, but at least they could be touched and held — and beheld — unlike my father, who was now unreachable and unable to be seen.

I found I wanted hard copies of my still-living family members, too — concrete facts to counteract the sensation of sloshing sea beneath my feet. My mother must have felt the same way. The morning after my father died, she got out her old albums from the 1970s and early '80s — fat, crepitating affairs with gilded vinyl covers in turquoise and maroon, featuring page after page of fading Kodak snapshots of the family that she and my dad had raised together.

Here, undeniably, was our family's past, dated by year, and laid out for all the world to see: our holidays in Cape Cod, Canada and Vermont; our house exchanges to Twickenham, England, and Lausanne, Switzerland; our circuitous drives to Wisconsin to see my dad's cousin who owned a dairy farm; our Thanksgiving dinners and concerts, birthdays and graduations.

The setbacks and sadness, anger and boredom that mark any human existence were nowhere in evidence, but that was OK. It was still a record of my dad's and our lives: my sisters learning how to horseback-ride; my hideous Dorothy Hamill haircut; my dad chasing down a ball on a tennis court. I'd never been so thankful for the diligent organizer that my mother has always been.

A few days later, I decided it was time to take on the photo nightmare on my computer, and I uploaded hundreds of shots onto snapfish.com and ordered prints. A week later, as I leafed through the mountain of glossy 3-by-5s, I came upon one of my father from our last vacation together, this past July.

In the picture, he's sitting next to my mother on the porch of our rental beach house, looking frail, but still very much part of a long-married couple. (They were together 50 years.) It's not a particularly flattering photo of either one of them. Even so, the image electrified me. My father looked so shockingly alive. I wondered if he knew it was all about to end.

Digital dearth

Going through the pile, I got to thinking that digital photography's chief selling points — the abilities to see the finished product instantly and to take countless pictures without incurring any additional charge — have turned out to be mixed blessings. With effort and cost excised from the equation, photos have become too plentiful. And at the same time — as more and more pictures are taken on smartphones, "shared" on social media if at all, then lost to the cacophony of the digital universe — meaningful images have become too scarce.

Many of my friends, forever switching among their laptops, tablets and smartphones, can no longer even say where their photo files are located.

Ultimately, the loss is maybe less about numbers than about quality and permanence. Printed images are crisper than pixelated ones. They are also tangible: material objects that can be grasped, pasted or leaned against a dresser mirror. Digital images have a distant, once-removed quality — kind of like dead fathers, come to think of it.

In any case, many of us no longer look to print photos to safekeep our memories. In some respects, maybe it's for the best.

I now had a hard drive filled with hundreds if not thousands of photo files.

When you gaze at the same snapshots over and over again during the course of a lifetime, the images become part of the recollection itself until the two are interchangeable, and it's hard to say what you remember at all.

Do I really remember standing in front of Big Ben as a child, or do I just remember the photo of me doing so? I can no longer say for sure, but I do know that that photograph became part of my sense of self.

I can't help wondering whether — with every digital image we casually take and delete from our iPhones or Androids — we're stripping photography of its awesome powers to keep the past in our sights.

Lucinda Rosenfeld is the author of the forthcoming novel **The Pretty One.** *This piece originally ran in the* **New York Times.**

LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Our clueless D.C. budget ‘fixers’

In the present scramble to “fix” the federal deficit, one of Washington’s worst ideas is widely considered by political elites — including some Democrats — to be a good idea, even a painless fix.

The idea is to raise the age of eligibility for both Social Security and Medicare, shoving it from 65 to 67, or beyond.

After all, goes Washington’s conventional wisdom, people live so much longer now, so it won’t hurt to postpone eligibility and “save” a couple of years of taxpayer outlays to people.

But, as economist and columnist Paul Krugman has pointed out, this bit of conventional wisdom is merely conventional — in the sense of trite.

While life expectancy has gone up on average, it has not increased much for working stiffs — especially for tens of millions of lower-wage and poor workers.

Raising the retirement age is gratuitous as well as cruel.

Unlike being a member of Congress, the work that these people do tends to require heavy lifting, which can make you old fast.

Requiring them to do it even deeper into old age — and to wait longer for medical assistance — is, as Krugman bluntly calls it, cruel.

Bear in mind, too, that working-class families are precisely the people who count most on someday getting Social Security and Medicare.

They don’t have the socialized medical benefits and golden pensions that those pampered conventional wisdom spouters in Congress get.

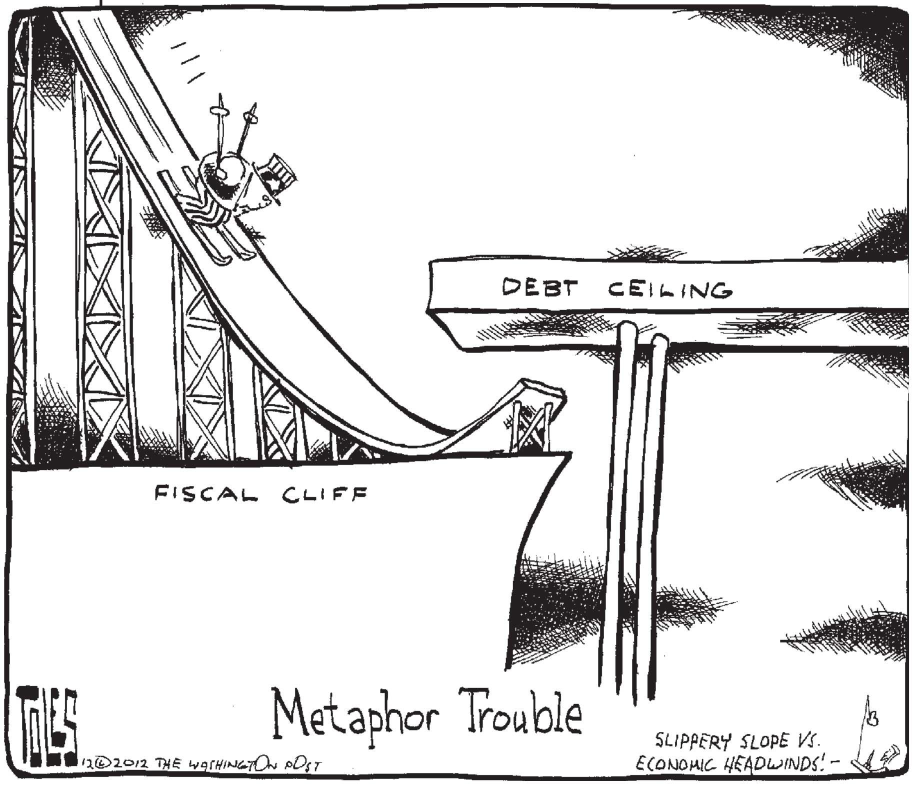
Oh, one more thing: The purported savings from this “fix” are so minimal as to be illusory. In fact, shoving ill or crippled elderly workers out of the cost-effective Medicare system actually will jack up America’s health care costs.

Raising the retirement age is gratuitous as well as cruel — but mostly it’s severely ignorant.

What’s at work here is a policy-making elite that includes no working-class people, nor is it in touch with any.

So it can cluelessly believe that making the hard lives of these Americans worse is “painless.”

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of **Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow,** *on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.*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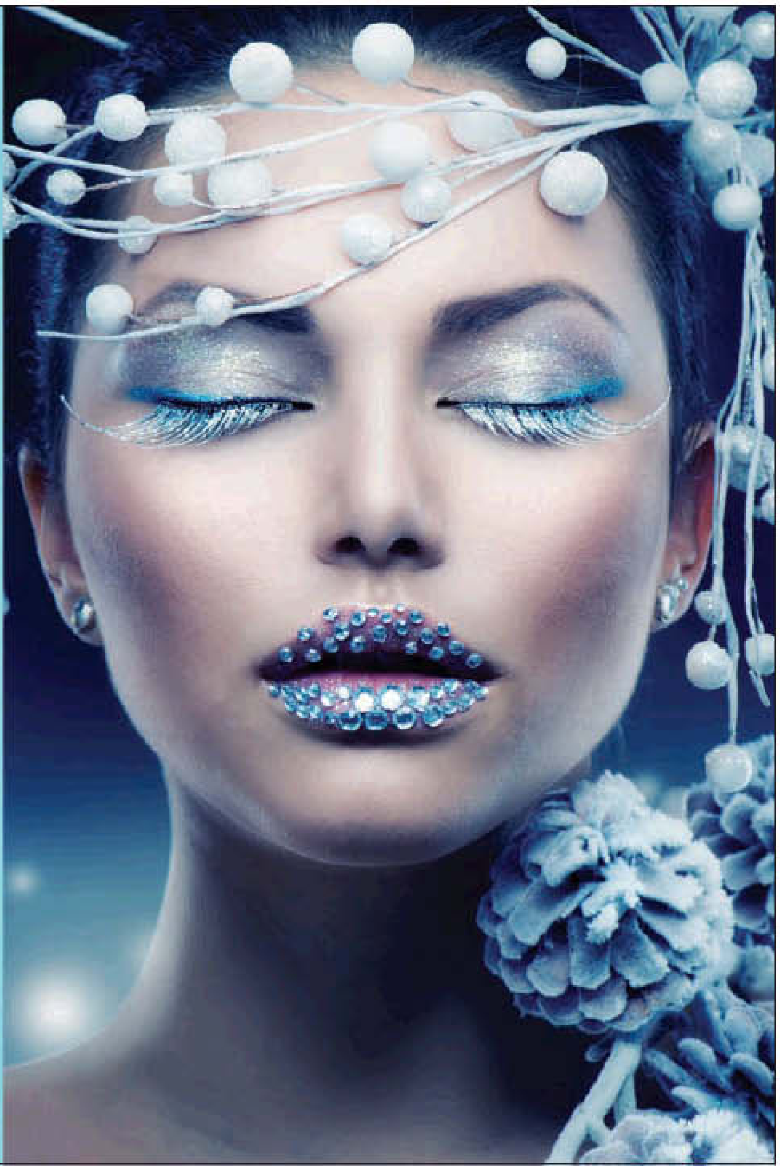

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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

Train shows all of Colorado

Two Fridays ago, 10 of us embarked from Denver on a journey we had planned for a year.

Actually, we're five couples — most have been close friends since the 1970s — who undertake a weekend escape every autumn, sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas. We're spread from Manitou Springs and Cascade to near Salida and even Las Cruces, N.M., but that doesn't deter us from our annual meeting.

Last year it was Taos; before that, Cripple Creek and Denver.

This time we were taking the train, Amtrak's California Zephyr, from Denver to Glenwood Springs. No big agenda, just ride to Glenwood, stay two nights and return. We would gather for dinner each night, but otherwise have no organized plan.

What brings us together, of course, is the shared bond of years and experiences together. But this trip's attraction was the train. Our route would take us literally into the Flatirons south of Boulder, westward for a series of shorter tunnels, then through the 6.2-mile Moffat Tunnel under the Continental Divide and into Winter Park. From there, we'd go north to Granby, west to Kremmling, then south through several canyons following the Colorado River until meeting up with Interstate 70 for the final stretch into Glenwood.

> **You don't think much about snowpack until you see it.**

It's a little less than six hours each way. And it's stunning, totally worth the round-trip fare of about $140 a person (less for seniors). If you think you've seen all of Colorado, you really can't say that until you've ridden the California Zephyr.

You slice through the Flatirons, amazed at the geology. You check out the streams and the lake that provides much of Denver's water supply. You marvel at the remarkable engineering feats from so long ago, creating tunnels to maintain the right direction with only a gentle rise in elevation.

We did have to gulp, from Winter Park onward, at the alarming lack of snow for the time frame of Nov. 30 to Dec. 2. And we couldn't help but worry about how low the Colorado River was running. Yes, the state finally got one decent storm last weekend, but it'll take plenty more to create the kind of snowpack needed for Colorado's rivers and water supplies, not to mention the ski industry.

We would find out later, reading a story in the *Glenwood Springs Post-Independent*, that the Western Slope snowpack in that region (west of the Continental Divide to Grand Junction) was only 41 percent of normal at the end of November. Actually, in the Arkansas River headwaters starting near Leadville, the snowpack was even less, reported at 32 percent.

You don't think much about snowpack until you see it — or, in this case, the absence of it. We'll be hearing more, especially if the winter weather doesn't pick up. But to grasp all that, without the distractions of highway driving, you have to be on the train.

On a happier note, whether you stop in Glenwood Springs or venture on to Grand Junction, many pleasant surprises await. The best scenery comes in Gore Canyon, a stretch that contains the Colorado River's best whitewater, with rock walls rising 1,000 feet or more on either side and no room for roadways, just the tracks. The train rolls slowly through the canyon, and not only are the views memorable, but just as predicted by our conductor, several majestic bald eagles took their turns flying gracefully over the river and alongside the train.

In Glenwood we didn't even need a car, whether walking the neat pedestrian bridge over I-70, the river and the tracks to Glenwood Hot Springs, or checking out the classy restaurants such as The Pullman (named one of the nation's best 10 new restaurants of 2011 by *Esquire* magazine).

There's one last lure to mention. If you wonder how loud the train might be, forget that. Unlike the trains of a generation ago, the California Zephyr is soothingly quiet as it moves along, as relaxing as one could imagine. (And the onboard restaurant provides good food, drink and service at decent prices.)

By Sunday night we were back in Denver, heading home and planning for next year — but also thinking this wouldn't be our last train trip.

Next time, we might take it all the way to San Francisco.

— routon@csindy.com

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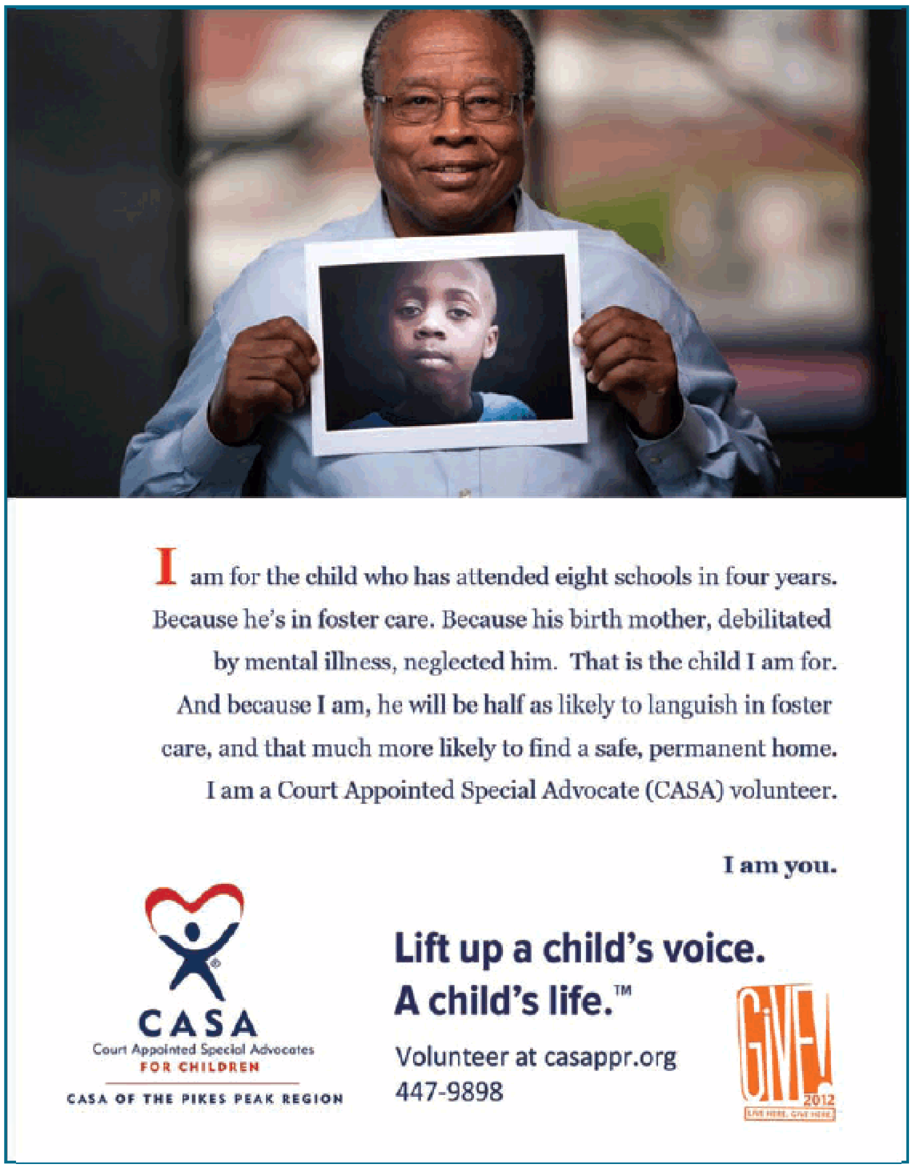

I am for the child who has attended eight schools in four years. Because he's in foster care. Because his birth mother, debilitated by mental illness, neglected him. That is the child I am for. And because I am, he will be half as likely to languish in foster care, and that much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer.

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GiVE! 2012
LIVE HERE. GIVE HERE.

Part 1: Whatever happened to...?

With the end of the year approaching, we begin to follow up on a few memorable stories

By *Indy* staff

In our cover feature this week (p. 21), Pam Zubeck offers an exhaustive examination of our city's Waldo Canyon Fire response — the fire inarguably being the single most impactful event locally of 2012. As she looks back, we felt it apropos to touch base with a handful of other news subjects from the year, in the interest of updating our readers on progress (or lack thereof) since our last reporting.

Courtesy Business of Art Center

'Art for a New Start': Recipient Kelly Hinshaw (left) with the BAC's Johnson.

In each week of what we're planning as a three-part series, we'll check in on features from different sites on the local news spectrum. (In other words, it'll be a random assortment.) If there's a story you found compelling on which you'd like an update, drop us a line at newsroom@csindy.com.

A light on dark money

Western Tradition Partnership's national profile has risen considerably — and not entirely to its liking — in the 11 months since the secretive conservative advocacy group was featured on our cover.

As explained in our Jan. 12 "Person of interest" story, the Denver-headquartered organization operates as "a channel for funds from corporations and individuals who want to influence elections under a cloak of anonymity, assuring its donors that 'no politician, no bureaucrat, and no radical environmentalist will ever know you helped make this program possible.'"

Then again, maybe not. In June, WTP (which is now operating under the name American Tradition Partnership) scored big in a U.S. Supreme Court decision that extended its *Citizens United* ruling to individual states. The organization then went on to become the subject of an October *Frontline* documentary called "Big Sky, Big Money." Within weeks of the program's airing, the PBS organization reported that documents revealing the "inner workings of the dark money group" were found in, of all places, a Colorado meth house.

Subsequently released records revealed ties between WTP and the Ron Paul presidential campaign, as well as the names of contributors who'd been promised by the organization that their identities would forever remain secret.

Among them was Longmont resident Donald Hood. "That's nobody's business," Hood complained when a PBS reporter asked about a $6,000 donation he'd made to WTP in 2009, the same year the group sued the city in an effort to prevent enforcement of the Longmont Fair Campaign Practices Act.

"Most of my donations are to groups where my donations are anonymous," added Hood. "The fact that you have my name and know I gave money to an organization one time is not really too pleasant, to my mind." ***— Bill Forman***

AspenPointe's cooking

In early 2013, AspenPointe Café's culinary training program anticipates graduating another 15 students, bringing the total since the program's 2011 inception to 33. These trainees are unique in that they range from veterans and at-risk youths to students from the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and those with some type of disability who've used AspenPointe's mental and behavioral health services.

When we last checked in on the café (see "Order of magnitude," May 2), located inside the El Paso County Citizens Service Center at 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 10 students were undergoing the 17-week, hands-on training program. Today, that number has grown to 19 students helping serve upward of 350 guests per day.

"We put them in a position where they can succeed and start to earn money — they want to be productive," says Ralph Molinar, operations manager for food services.

AspenPointe is run as an umbrella organization with a trio of nonprofits, the culinary program being part of a social enterprise branch called AspenPointe Enterprises. It employs and trains those with disadvantages and helps with job placement and follow-up support, without state or federal assistance. In the AspenPointe Café, 100 percent of the proceeds from guest purchases are reinvested in the student training program.

Brian Toon, director of business operations, says the catering division of the café in particular has taken off over the past six months, growing by some 50 percent and $118,000. In response, they've bought two new vans and created three full-time catering positions. ***— Matthew Schniper***

The rest of the tail

Casandra Barelli doesn't live in Colorado anymore. Only days after the 4th Judicial District Attorney dropped animal cruelty charges against the single mother, she packed up her things, and moved farther west.

As we reported Feb. 16 ("Rat trap," News), Barelli's legal ordeal began after rushing her pet rat Natalie to the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region to be euthanized.

At the end of her life, Natalie was not a terribly healthy rat, and she had many external signs of ill health, such as lesions that had formed over her cancerous tumors. However, Barelli contends, the nearly 4-year-old rat had never suffered. She was a big eater up until the day she died and was well cared for and pampered.

So Barelli was horrified when the Humane Society cited her for abusing the animal, a Class 1 misdemeanor. Facing fines and possible jail time, Barelli retained an attorney.

"The day before we were to go to trial, my defense attorney got a call from the DA offering a deal," Barelli writes in an e-mail. "They dropped all charges, but they insisted that I write a statement that I would never own more than 2 rats within El Paso County and that I would 'donate' $50.00 to the Humane Society that wrote the ticket. As I had been away from my child for 2 weeks while they mulled over prosecuting me for something that wasn't against the law (ie there are no laws requiring euthanization of a geriatric pet), I quickly gave them a money order through my lawyer for the required donation."

Lee Richards, spokeswoman for the DA's office, confirms that the charges were dropped.

"The whole situation was so traumatic for myself and my family, we have been unwilling to have any pets at all since that time," Barelli continues. "I can only hope that the local Humane Society has either properly trained [its] employees or has changed hands. Even if my family does decide to come back to Colorado, we have decided we will never use their services or donate to them again. Whether I will ever own another pet is still something we are deciding. ...

"I love animals, but I won't put my family through that again." ***— Chet Hardin***

Happy ending for 'Start'

Not long after the outbreak of the Waldo Canyon Fire, the Business of Art Center started collecting donated works of art to give away to those who lost their homes in the fire. Through its "Art for a New Start" initiative ("Kindling memories," Fall Arts Preview, Sept. 5), the Manitou Springs business sought all types of works to help all types of people.

After months of collecting, the BAC hosted a reception Nov. 30, open only to those who lost their homes so they could pick out one piece of art.

BAC executive director Natalie Johnson says they collected about 275 pieces (the original goal was one for each of the 345 homes that burned), and gave away about 240. She says about 500 people at the event not only got to meet some of the participating artists, who included Deb Komitor, Sean O'Meallie, Laura Reilly and Lance Green, but to talk to one another.

"It wasn't one of those things that really dawned on anyone," says Johnson, "but it's the first time they've sort of all been together and in a way that was positive, that it wasn't a meeting about insurance or their next steps or anything like that." ***— Edie Adelstein***

News

Fueling debate

Commissioners object to giving unemployed residents gas cards without accountability

By Pam Zubeck

With the local unemployment rate sitting at 9.2 percent, the Pikes Peak Workforce Center is trying to get thousands of people ready to hold a job.

Slurpees aren't available at Loaf 'N Jug — they sell ICEEs. But you get the idea.

Part of that effort includes handing out fuel cards so some residents can get to job interviews, or to classes in retraining programs. The idea is to increase an individual's future employability, which, in turn, boosts regional economic development.

But a routine agenda item Dec. 4 that asked El Paso County commissioners to approve $79,200 in federal spending next year on fuel cards provoked an ideological oration over redistribution of wealth and government accountability.

Commission Chair Amy Lathen, a conservative who has called President Obama a Marxist and a socialist, was the most vocally opposed to giving the unemployed among us a $20 fuel card.

"I have a fundamental issue of taking taxpayers' money and giving it to someone to go to school," she said.

The expenditure is part of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which allows the government to help pay for job training and education for people who are unemployed, as well as veterans, dislocated workers and military spouses. Gas cards also can be given to clients to assist in traveling to job interviews, based on financial need.

"With the price of gas nowadays, people just don't have the gas money," Workforce Center spokeswoman Jeanne Cotter says in an interview, adding that federal benefits beyond the standard 26 weeks of unemployment payments will end Dec. 29, unless Congress authorizes additional payments.

People who live in Colorado Springs can get three $20 cards per month, she says; if they live outside the Springs but in El Paso County, they can qualify for four. But the eligibility guidelines are strict: From Jan. 1 through Dec. 5, only 157 people were given fuel cards. (The Workforce Center served 55,476 people during the same time period.) They must be enrolled in a specific federal government program for retraining, or be able to document their job search. And they must have a current driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

"I do know that our case managers are very cognizant of their fiduciary trust," Cotter says, noting that if there's any indication a recipient is misusing a fuel card, case managers "would take appropriate action," such as not issuing the client additional cards or seeking repayment.

The problem: There's no mechanism in place to assure the cards are used for fuel.

"What would stop someone from buying a Slurpee?" Cotter says, reciting commissioners' concerns. "We don't have an answer for that."

Commissioner Peggy Littleton said last week that recipients shouldn't get a second card until they prove they used the first one for fuel alone. But Cotter says handing out cards already is fairly labor-intensive for the Workforce Center, and additional paperwork would require even more staff time.

That's why she hopes the contract will be rebid, or renegotiated with the only vendor who bid on it, Loaf 'N Jug, to require it to impose controls.

However, county spokesman Dave Rose says Loaf 'N Jug doesn't have an enforcement mechanism in place to limit the cards to fuel purchases only.

"I suspect that the solution will be people have to bring back the receipt" for how the card was spent, the Workforce Center's Mike St. Clair told commissioners. "We can, no doubt, improve our process."

Commissioners voted 4-1 to reconsider the expenditure on Dec. 20 with an accountability provision. Lathen voted no, saying she opposes the spending under any circumstances.

— zubeck@csindy.com

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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Drilling vote postponed

Drilling for oil and gas won't happen as quickly as first thought, with the Colorado Springs City Council on Monday delaying a second vote on its oil and gas ordinance.

The vote, which was to occur Tuesday, was postponed until January to allow the Council to hold a work session. "The topic is largely location of drilling sites," Council liaison Aimee Cox says via e-mail. "The current ordinance would allow drilling in any zone. The question is should drilling be permitted in residential zones by right."

Drilling critics saw the postponement as a small victory. They've been encouraged recently by having collected nearly 2,000 signatures on an anti-fracking petition, and also by Councilor Tim Leigh's announcement that he'll oppose the ordinance when it comes up for a second vote. Leigh had voted for it Nov. 27, part of a 6-3 majority.

The city has been wrestling with oil and gas rules for a year, due to Ultra Resources' purchase of 18,000 acres on the east side. The Houston company plans to drill once rules are put into place.

Citing the potential for thousands of jobs from the business, Councilor Angela Dougan said Monday's decision to postpone "saddens" her. — ***PZ***

Plan tackles immigration

Sunday brought a small step toward immigration reform when U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet and former Sen. Hank Brown presented the new Colorado Compact. The Compact, in the works for more than a year, is the result of more than 400 meetings statewide among leaders from agricultural, political, business and religious sectors to try and reform immigration on a federal level.

It outlines six main points for initiating change, from emphasizing the importance of keeping families together, to effective law enforcement, to strengthening the economy. Based on similar initiatives by states like Utah, the Compact has already been signed by nearly 100 organizations and individuals.

Among prominent Colorado Springs signatories are Colorado College president Jill Tiefenthaler; Bishop Michael J. Sheridan; William J. Hybl, CEO of the El Pomar Foundation; and Steve Bartolin, president of the Broadmoor.

Another is Will Stoller-Lee, director of Fuller Theological Seminary and a member of the six-month-old Evangelical Immigration Table, a national group devoted to reform. "There is a rich tradition in the Bible that emphasizes hospitality, both in terms of how we welcome the stranger and immigrant, and also how we engage in discussion with those who start from a different point of view," he says in an EIT release. "Our churches and our community desperately need this refreshing approach."

For more, or to sign it yourself, visit coloradocompact.com. — ***CW***

Early start for Glenn

With the November election still in the news, Darryl Glenn on Sunday jumped into the next one: The Republican announced he'll seek a second term in 2014 on the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners.

A graduate of Doherty High and the Air Force Academy, Glenn is a lawyer and personal fitness trainer who retired as a lieutenant colonel after 21 years of military service. He served on the Colorado Springs City Council from June 2003 to January 2011.

In a release, Glenn said he favors local policies based on "our core principles of personal responsibility, individual freedom, property rights, market economics and responsible limitations on government intervention."

Glenn represents District 1, the northern portion of the county. The other commissioner seat up for election in 2014 is held by first-termer Peggy Littleton, who represents District 5, covering the city's core. — ***PZ***

Bensberg seeks city seat

Jim Bensberg, Springs native and El Paso County commissioner from 2003 to 2011, will run for the District 3 City Council seat, representing the southwest portion of the city. The district is currently served by Lisa Czelatdko, who hasn't yet filed her candidacy in the April 2 election.

As commissioner, Bensberg helped set up a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in the Springs and pushed to televise meetings. "My constituents have always known me for my accessibility, accountability and my desire to streamline government so that taxpayers are assured the best representation possible," he said in a statement.

Voters will elect six members in April to the nine-member Council. — ***PZ***

Bear Creek trails closed

Off-road motorcyclists, it's official: Local favorite Captain Jack's and other trails in the Bear Creek Watershed were closed Monday to motorized vehicles. The U.S. Forest Service created this "temporary prohibition" on judicial order, after the Center for Biological Diversity sued the USFS and National Forest Supervisor Jerri Marr for violation of the Endangered Species Act. The watershed was recently found to be the only home for the greenback cutthroat trout, Colorado's state fish.

Driving on the trail now can earn you a misdemeanor, including a fine of up to $5,000 for individuals, $10,000 for organizations, or jail time of up to six months.

For a complete list of restricted areas, see tinyurl.com/bearcreekclosures. — ***CW***

Compiled by Celine Wright and Pam Zubeck. For more briefs, see csindy.com.

Colorado officially legalizes marijuana

On Monday, Gov. John Hickenlooper signed an executive order finalizing Amendment 64, officially making possession of up to an ounce of marijuana for adults age 21 and up legal in Colorado.

"Voters were loud and clear on Election Day," Hickenlooper wrote on his Facebook page. "We will begin working immediately with the General Assembly and state agencies to implement Amendment 64."

To that end, Hickenlooper has created a task force to "consider and resolve a number of policy, legal and procedural issues, involving various interests and stakeholders, to implement the new constitutional amendment," reads a press release. Those involved include Chris Urbina, executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Dr. Christian Thurstone, a person described as having "expertise in the treatment of marijuana addiction"; and Daniel Zook, a prosecutor with the 4th Judicial District Attorney's office. All meetings of the group are open to the public; the first will occur at noon, Monday, Dec. 17, at 17301 W. Colfax Ave., #135, in Golden.

In the meantime, John Walsh, the U.S. Attorney for the state of Colorado, has issued his own follow-up statement, indicating that all is as it was: "Regardless of any changes in state law, including the change that will go into effect on December 10th in Colorado, growing, selling or possessing any amount of marijuana remains illegal under federal law. Members of the public are also advised to remember that it remains against federal law to bring any amount of marijuana onto federal property, including all federal buildings, national parks and forests, military installations, and courthouses."

Matthew Schniper

Gov. John Hickenlooper

— Bryce Crawford

GiVE!Campaign

Dog days

All Breed Rescue & Training succeeds in rehabilitating troubled canines

By Rhonda Van Pelt

Asia has an ear-to-ear grin, a happy tail and boundless energy. She loves to bask in the sun in her favorite chair. She's devoted to her humans, and they return the feeling. Asia's breed, American pit bull terrier, has one of the worst reputations in the canine kingdom. But this sweet dog just seems grateful for her second chance at a happy life.

Bradley Flora

With volunteer Andy Wooten's assistance, Asia the pit bull has transformed 'from abused to ambassador.'

At All Breed Rescue & Training's facility off North Nevada Avenue, the pup has received the descriptor "from abused to ambassador."

When her owners surrendered the 7-week-old puppy at the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, they admitted they'd thrown her against a wall. Fortunately, the HSPPR and ABRT have a close relationship, and the latter took on the task of finding her a new home.

"Between her abusive past, her medical issues and her breed, there was no other organization that would take her. It was us or nobody," says Lauren Fox, ABRT's executive director.

First, Asia needed a stable foster home while going through medical care for her neurological issues and socialization classes to help her trust humans. Andy Wooten signed up to foster her, but quickly fell in love.

"She was on the floor when my daughter and I came in, and my daughter knew the minute I saw her that it was over with."

Best behavior

Asia, now nearly 2 years old, went home with the Wootens and the temporary situation soon became permanent. Years ago, Wooten didn't like pit bulls when he married a woman who owned a pit bull mix.

"I thought [Roxy] was unpredictable," he says. "There were very few games we could play that would not escalate with her. I would see this switch in her eyes. I would think, 'OK, this has gone too far.' But as she got older and had some training, I started to change my tune."

The couple divorced and Wooten's ex-wife moved out of state. He missed Roxy, and his ex-wife agreed to turn her over. That was in 2005, and it's been smooth sailing ever since. Even adding Asia to the household came easily — after a bit of sniffing around, Roxy accepted her new canine sibling into the home.

"These dogs are very intelligent; they love their people," Wooten says. "I don't think any dog has more personality than pit bulls."

Fox says nearly all of the 107 dogs she's fostered over the past 15 years have been pit bulls or mixes. Several Colorado cities, including Denver and Castle Rock, have banned the breed, so they often land in Colorado Springs shelters and rescues.

"If I had to generalize about pit bulls, it's that they want to please humans," Fox says. "They will be whatever you want them to be, and so in the wrong hands, they can be not pleasant. But in my opinion, you couldn't ask for a better dog."

From foster to forever

Fox started fostering dogs for what was then called Colorado Springs All Breed Rescue. She stepped up to lead the agency in 1998, and in 2005, CSABR changed its name to reflect its mission to train the dogs that come through its doors before transferring them to foster homes.

Puppies age 6 to 14 weeks can attend a seven-week "kindergarten," which includes learning how to play well with others, noise desensitization and basic manners. From 15 weeks to 11 months, they can move on to classes designed to quell behaviors such as jumping up and barking.

"If we can get more rescue puppies into that stabilizing training before 20 weeks of age, we can reduce the amount of behavior problems and therefore reduce the amount of euthanasia in dogs being put into shelters," Fox says. "The number one killer of dogs in this country right now is behavior and training problems."

ABRT's adult-dog classes include Outdoor Adventure and Canine Freestyle Skills, along with training for safety and therapy tasks.

Last January, ABRT began offering free post-adoption training for any puppies adopted from HSPPR or local rescue groups. New owners can attend as many classes as they want until the puppy reaches 20 weeks. ABRT also offers classes for any dogs at the HSPPR shelter for more than 30 days or that have been adopted and returned twice.

The organization's greatest need is for more foster homes. Currently, ABRT has 75 to 80; Fox dreams of having 120 foster families ready to help prepare dogs for their forever homes.

"When I'm talking to an adopter or potential adopter I say, 'I want to make sure that you are the one who holds this dog's paw on the day that it dies."

— *scene@csindy.com*

CAPSULE

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EVENTS

Kids on Bikes

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WED, DEC. 12, 6 – 8PM

Art & Wine Artist Reception

G44 Gallery, 1785 S 8th Street

Opening with a show by Keith Crofton, Joe Higgens and Megan McClusky. $10 minimum donation to Kids on Bikes through IndyGive.com (show receipt at the door) earns entrance, complimentary wine and snacks. A portion of proceeds from art sales benefit KOB.

Trails and Open Space Coalition

THURS., DEC. 13, 6 – 8:30PM

D'Vine Wine Tasting

D'Vine Wine, 934 Manitou Ave. #108

Featuring the Incline Wine which benefits Trails and Open Space and the Incline Friends. We will also provide folks with an opportunity to give to TOSC. A portion of bar sales also benefit TOSC.

Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs

FRI., DEC. 14 – 5:50PM

Catholic Charities Family Immigration Services

Las Posadas

Meet at St Mary's Cathedral, 22 W Kiowa

A traditional Hispanic Advent celebration symbolizing the search of Mary and Joseph for a place for Jesus to be born. Procession from St Mary's to Marion House, followed by dinner, music and dancing. Free, but donations accepted. RSVP to Corey 866-6510

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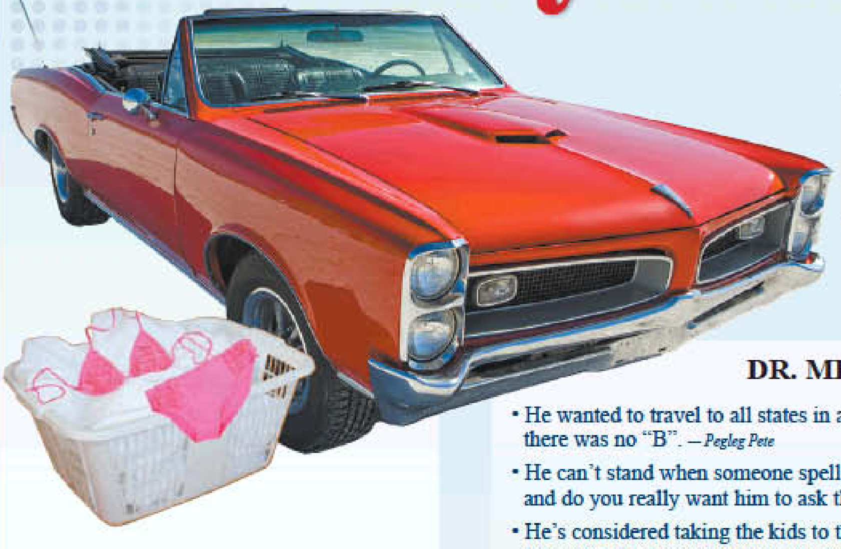
& floss too, fool! — *T Dog*



"GTO? I thought you said GTL." — *Snooki*

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DR. MILLER "FACTS"
- He wanted to travel to all states in alphabetical order but wasn't sure what to do when there was no "B". — *Pegleg Pete*
- He can't stand when someone spells "Donuts" "Doughnuts". Who the heck is Doug and do you really want him to ask the next question? — *Huey*
- He's considered taking the kids to the Vet for their check ups because they're squirmy like cats and dogs and maybe the vets are more qualified to 'handle' them. — *Dewey*
- He is currently taking submissions for a theme song. It must include the words: cape, bazinga and "something" in a box. — *Louie*
- He has built a trap door on his front porch. The next time those kids play "ding dong ditch" they just better watch it… — *Ms. Quackfaster*
- Although Dr. Miller doesn't sing in the choir, he has token friends that do. — *Nyla H*

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MisFire

How city leaders left residents — and their heroes — exposed during the Waldo Canyon tragedy

Bryan Oller

She wants to recall Mayor Steve Bach, but fire victim Dr. Mary Harrow expresses gratitude for the firefighters who were 'put in such a horrific position.'

By Pam Zubeck

Dr. Mary Harrow made it out of her neighborhood alive on June 26, no thanks to the city.

Never contacted by police or firefighters even as the Waldo Canyon Fire surged down her street, she blames the man in charge, Mayor Steve Bach. She showed up at an Oct. 24 town hall meeting at Eagleview Middle School to demand his resignation. The crowd of about 200 met her statements with murmurs, then stone silence.

But Harrow won't quiet down. She lost her house and everything left in it, from one of her pets to her late mom's wedding ring, in Mountain Shadows that night. And her home on Brogans Bluff Drive was less than a mile away from the Rossmere Street house where William and Barbara Everett burned to death.

"When I heard those people died, I thought, 'It's not just property. That really is a crime,'" Harrow, 52, says in an interview. "There was a false sense of, 'The government is in control,' and no, they're not."

Indeed, hundreds of documents reviewed by the *Independent*, and first-hand accounts from those involved, paint a picture of a city that was ill-prepared on that Tuesday afternoon, despite years of warnings, three days of fire nearby, and conspicuous signals of impending disaster.

The city acknowledges some of those signals in its 34-page Initial After Action Report, a self-assessment released Oct. 23. For one thing, the fire had burned erratically since it started June 23. Temperatures were hot, and fuels dry.

Other warning signs aren't mentioned in the report, but already have been established. For instance, as June 26 dawned, the Type 1 team leading the firefighting effort on federal land had dozers cutting a line north from Queens Canyon. Its aircraft were pounding the line with slurry. Firefighters were warned to expect a "red flag" day with gusty winds and thunderstorms.

But there are a lot of things that, as the six-month anniversary of the tragedy approaches, we haven't been told — and that the city is still choosing not to talk about (see "Making a statement," p. 22).

For one thing, the feds' warning on that Tuesday morning drew a specific parallel to June 9, 2002, when the notorious Hayman Fire made a 60,000-acre run north of Lake George in the same Pike National Forest.

For another, Bach's belief that officials "did everything humanly possible to save what they could" — as he put it at that Oct. 24 town hall meeting — is seriously challenged in reports filed by the men and women who actually fought the blaze. Consider:

- When the fire swept into Mountain Shadows, the city had a mere four firefighting vehicles, or apparatus, assigned to that subdivision and all other land north to the Air Force Academy.
- The evacuation plan had been drafted only that morning, and was enacted minutes before the first homes burned.
- Local firefighters found themselves outgunned, and much of the help from other fire departments was nowhere close, because leaders sought those

illuminate

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WOODMEN VALLEY CHAPEL

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Sunday, December 23 • 9 & 11:15 am
Monday, December 24 • 1, 3, 5 & 7 pm

- Children's ministry (birth–K) is available at all services.
- Sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired will be provided at 3 pm at both campuses.
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resources only after flames came into the city. Their chief staging area wasn't set up and equipped until houses were ablaze, and they didn't have a mobile command post until eight hours into Tuesday's firefight.

- When firefighters tried to reach command or each other, sometimes no one answered. Many weren't told exactly what to do and, at times, didn't know who was in charge.
- When additional resources did arrive, some were idled even as personnel amid the firestorm begged for help.
- And, as readily admitted by city firefighters leading efforts on the ground that night (see "Men in the box," p. 31), the fire could have charged further eastward for miles had it not been for the unanticipated arrival of U.S. Forest Service engines and their hot shot crews.

Men and women on the lines limited the losses at 345 homes and two lives through sheer bravery, skill and dedication. But like Harrow, even they apparently believe they have reason to be angry. And perhaps all of us do.

Heights of protection

CSFD District Chief Randy Royal was first dispatched to the Waldo Canyon Fire at 12:19 p.m., Saturday, June 23, according to his duty report.

He sent two task forces — one with seven apparatus, and one with five — to the gated Cedar Heights development, then ordered a staging area set up at 31st Street and Colorado Avenue. He activated the department's mobile command unit, and told officials to open the city's emergency operations center.

Royal advised city Emergency Operations Manager Bret Waters that Cedar Heights should be evacuated, and it was at 1:30 p.m. City records show that an hour later lower Mountain Shadows (south of Chuckwagon Road) was evacuated, too.

As the afternoon went on, the plume moved north and northeast, flames occasionally reaching 150 feet above the treetops, Royal writes. He assigned one of Cedar Heights' task forces to the Queens Canyon area, including the historic Glen Eyrie estate, where firefighters removed flammable materials and otherwise miti-

Kirsten Akens

Bach, left, and Fire Chief Rich Brown aren't fielding questions today.

Making a statement

On Wednesday, Nov. 28, *Independent* senior reporter Pam Zubeck e-mailed the Colorado Springs Fire Department to request an interview about the Waldo Canyon Fire with Fire Chief Rich Brown.

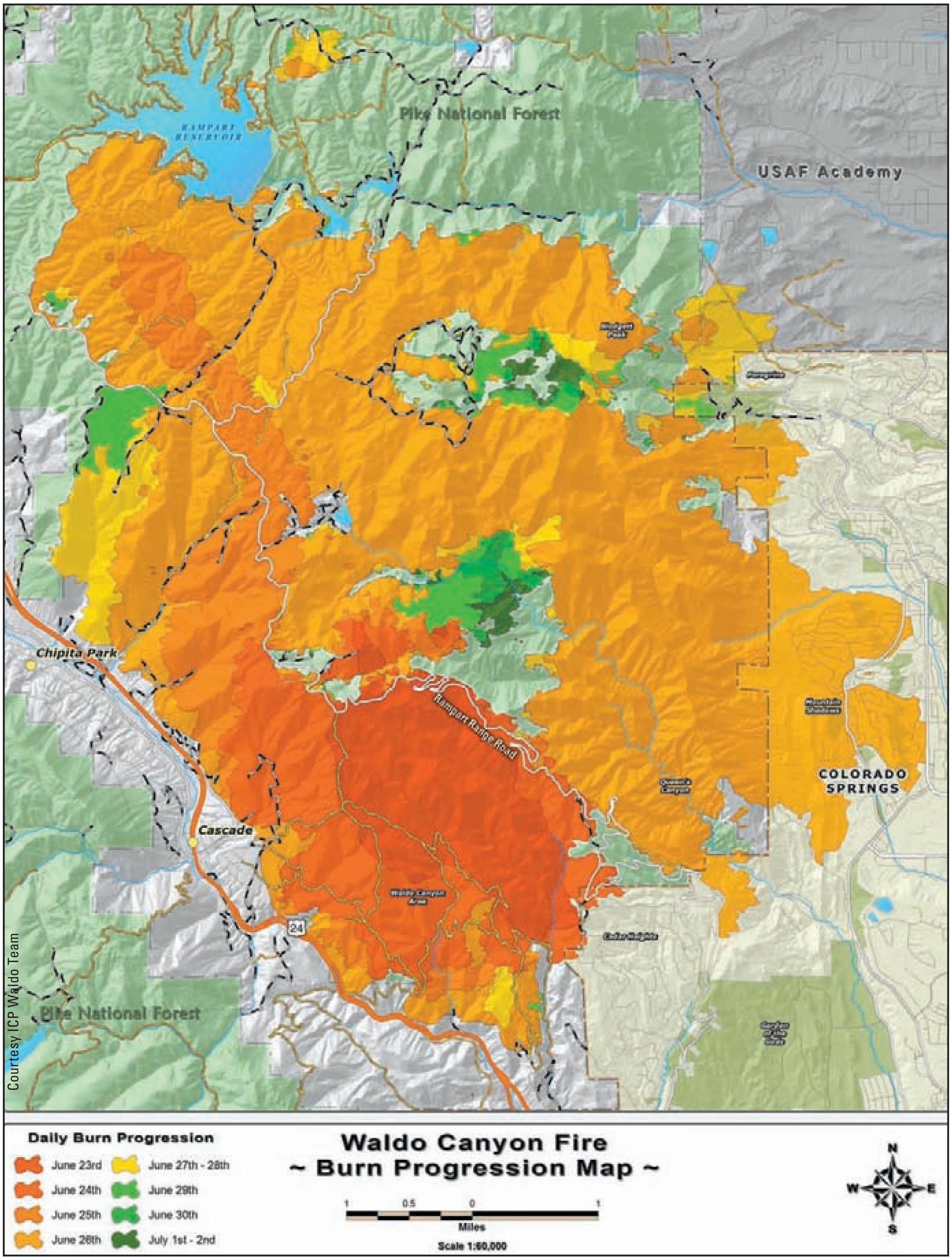
After receiving out-of-office replies from two deputy chiefs and the public information officer, she took her request to Julie Smith, senior communications specialist with the city. Earlier that day, Zubeck had also asked Cindy Aubrey, Colorado Springs' chief communications officer, for an interview about the fire with Mayor Steve Bach. In both requests, she noted that we'd talk anytime before 5 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5.

At 5:14 p.m., Monday, Dec. 3, Smith replied via e-mail that in order for our requests to be considered, we'd have to share more about our "angle" and source data, and to provide our questions in advance.

At 9:50 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4, Zubeck e-mailed Smith seven questions for the mayor, and 11 questions for the fire chief (though, some questions for both men had more than one part). Topics ranged from fire department staffing June 26 to the evacuation process to a possible third-party investigation of the fire response.

The only reply we received came via e-mail at 5:11 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5, from Aubrey: **"The City stands by the Initial After Action Report, which was an exhaustive review of the Waldo Canyon Fire and the City's response. The Full After Action Report will be released second quarter of 2013. The Mayor believes that the Colorado Springs Fire Department, the Colorado Springs Police Department and all other City staff did an exemplary job responding to the Waldo Canyon Fire."**

— Kirk Woundy



Courtesy ICP Waldo Team

Tuesday morning, the U.S. Forest Service said weather conditions mirrored those of the Hayman Fire's worst day. Sure enough, the Waldo fire grew from 4,500 to 15,622 acres on Tuesday, including 1,516 acres within city limits.

gated fire risks, including closing windows and curtains and removing brush around buildings. (Later that night, the Forest Service would arrive to help there, too.) Lastly, Royal sent a third task force of two engines and two brush trucks to lower Mountain Shadows.

The deployments quickly tapped out the department, prompting the city to ask fire departments from Stratmoor Hills, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Cimarron Hills and Peterson Air Force Base to fill four city stations on Saturday. Three more were left empty.

As the city deployed its resources on Saturday, Colorado Springs Utilities' Catamount Wildland Fire Team began to cut a firebreak above Cedar Heights, an effort that would continue in the following days.

In Cedar Heights itself, firefighters patrolled, watched for flying sparks, mopped the dozer line, and mitigated around homes, as explains Engine 20's Company Officer Aaron McConnellogue.

"We prepared every home located on 3 Graces Dr and Old Scotchman Way," he notes in his report. "Entry was made into almost every home by way of unlocked doors. Tasks performed were exterior removal of low lying ladder fuels, Lp Gas [propane] bottles moved to the street, firewood and patio furniture moved from decks, interior prep consisted of closing all doors and windows, dropping all blinds, and closing windows coverings."

For days, Cedar Heights, whose 183 single-family homes bear an assessed average value of $546,000, was given high-priority treatment. A total of 14 Springs fire apparatus were posted there the first day, and 23 the second, city records show. That's compared to four on Saturday and none on Sunday for the 1,413 single-family homes (average value, $340,000) in all of Mountain Shadows.

Hot shots

A few relevant fire terms

Brush truck (pictured): Known as a Type 6 and mounted on a ¾- or 1-ton chassis with off-road capability, this firefighting vehicle carries 200 to 300 gallons of water, plus hoses and tools. It's often used to fight wildland fires, and is labeled with a "B," paired with the fire station number where it's based.

Heavy rescue: A firefighting vehicle equipped with rescue equipment for extrication of people from vehicles or rescues from heights, such as Garden of the Gods rocks.

Hot shot crew: A ground crew of 20 firefighters, who usually work for the Forest Service, who use pulaski tools, chain saws and other equipment to inhibit advance of a wildland fire.

ICP: Incident Command Post, the hub from which a firefighting effort is directed, containing commanders, weather forecasters, logistics experts and the like.

Pyrocumulus cloud: A cloud that builds over a fire and contains a collection of particulates and moisture released by burning fuels. Such clouds can dissipate or collapse if they become too heavy.

Strike team: A team composed of resources of the same type, assembled to meet a tactical objective with common communications and leadership. Typically, a strike team is four or more resources.

Task force: A team composed of resources of *different* types, assembled to meet a tactical objective with common communications and leadership. Typically, a task force also contains four or more resources.

Type 1 engine: A firefighting vehicle that carries 500 gallons of water and can pump 1,000 gallons per minute. It does not go off-road. Though the city has engines in reserve that are labeled differently, generally a Type 1 engine is labeled "E," followed by the number of the station at which it's based.

Type 1 team: The federal Forest Service's most elite and highly trained firefighting team, assigned to the most complex incidents. The team consists of an incident commander and experts in weather forecasting, logistics, finances, communications and firefighting. While the team and engine share the Type 1 name, there's no direct connection between them.

Wildland engine: A vehicle that can carry up to 500 gallons of water and firefighting tools and, due to a shorter wheel base, can go off-road. It's typically called a Type 3 engine and is named "WL" followed by the station number.

— Compiled by Pam Zubeck

Get off your ass and write!

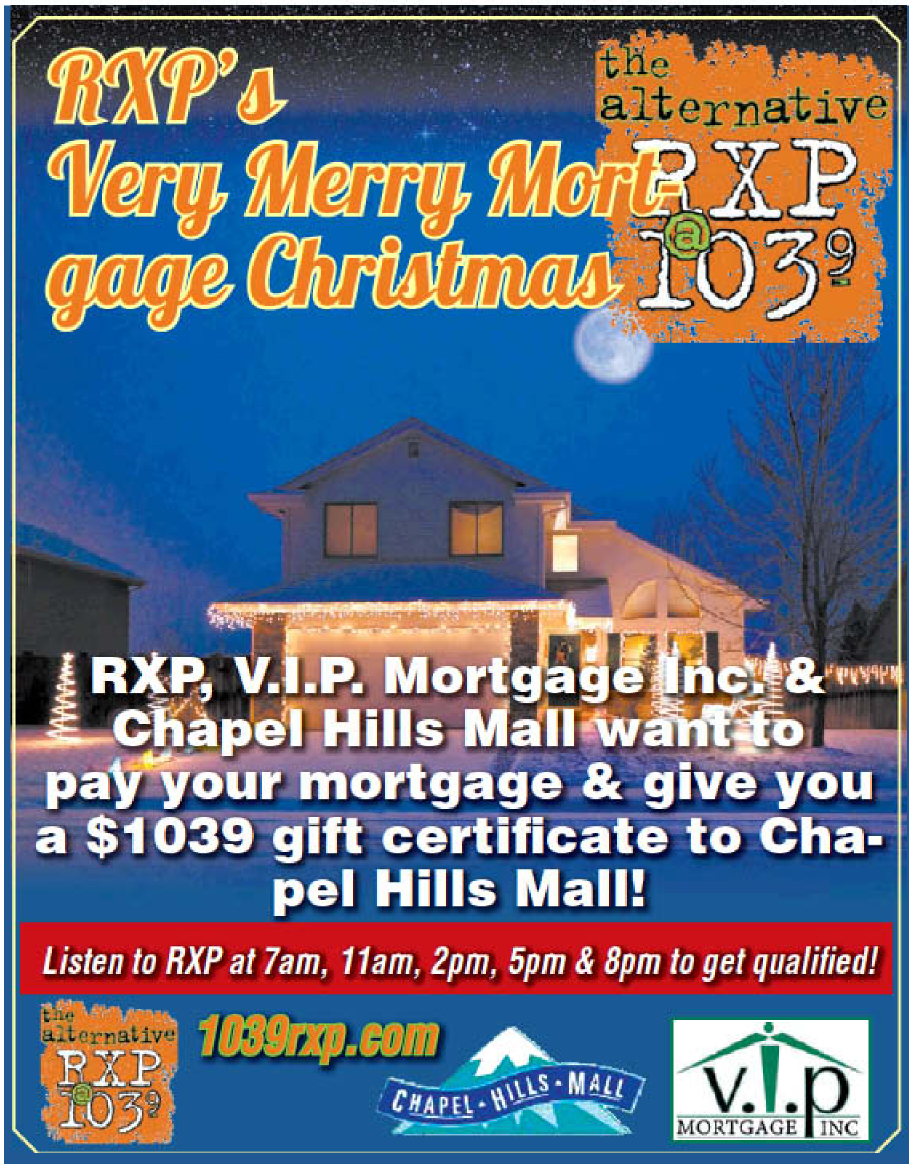
During campaign season, you sent us more Letters to the Editor than we knew what to do with. But after Election Day — nada, zippo, bupkis.

We got civic debacles and creepy politicos out the wazoo ... so what's with the radio silence? Surely to god you're perplexed/concerned/miffed/apoplectic about something.

So write us a freakin' letter, already!*

*If your comments are mailed to us (235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903) or e-mailed (letters@csindy.com) we will consider them for publication — unless you ask us not to. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification, and keep in mind that we generally run each letter at 300 words or fewer.

Colorado Springs Independent



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Early in the firefight, the need was obvious: The fire crawled to the western edge of Cedar Heights by Sunday night or Monday morning, where the dozer line played a key role in holding the flames at bay. But it's striking that no fewer than 11 apparatus were on duty in Cedar Heights daily for the first eight days of the fire, including most of Tuesday — and that only well after Mountain Shadows homes caught fire were some units redirected.

Bach explained the dedication to Cedar Heights this way at an Oct. 23 news conference: "Cedar Heights is the poster child for the Waldo Canyon Fire. We honestly thought that first afternoon Cedar Heights was gonna go, because the winds were strong. Even though the people of Cedar Heights over the last three years with the Fire Department had done a lot of mitigation, there was real concern the Cedar Heights homes would all be gone. The winds shifted and went the other way."

'Crazy conditions'

Harrow would have been happy to have seen firefighters in her neighborhood Tuesday morning.

"If somebody said, 'We have to cut all your trees down to save your house,' I would say, 'Give me a chain saw,'" she says.

As it happens, one of Harrow's patients at her medical practice is a firefighter. That morning, she says, that firefighter told her, "The winds are going to shift against you today." So, after heading home at noon, she and a co-worker removed a wood pile from her stucco and tile-roofed house. "We swept it all up and stood back and said, 'Any fire marshal would be proud to look at this house.'"

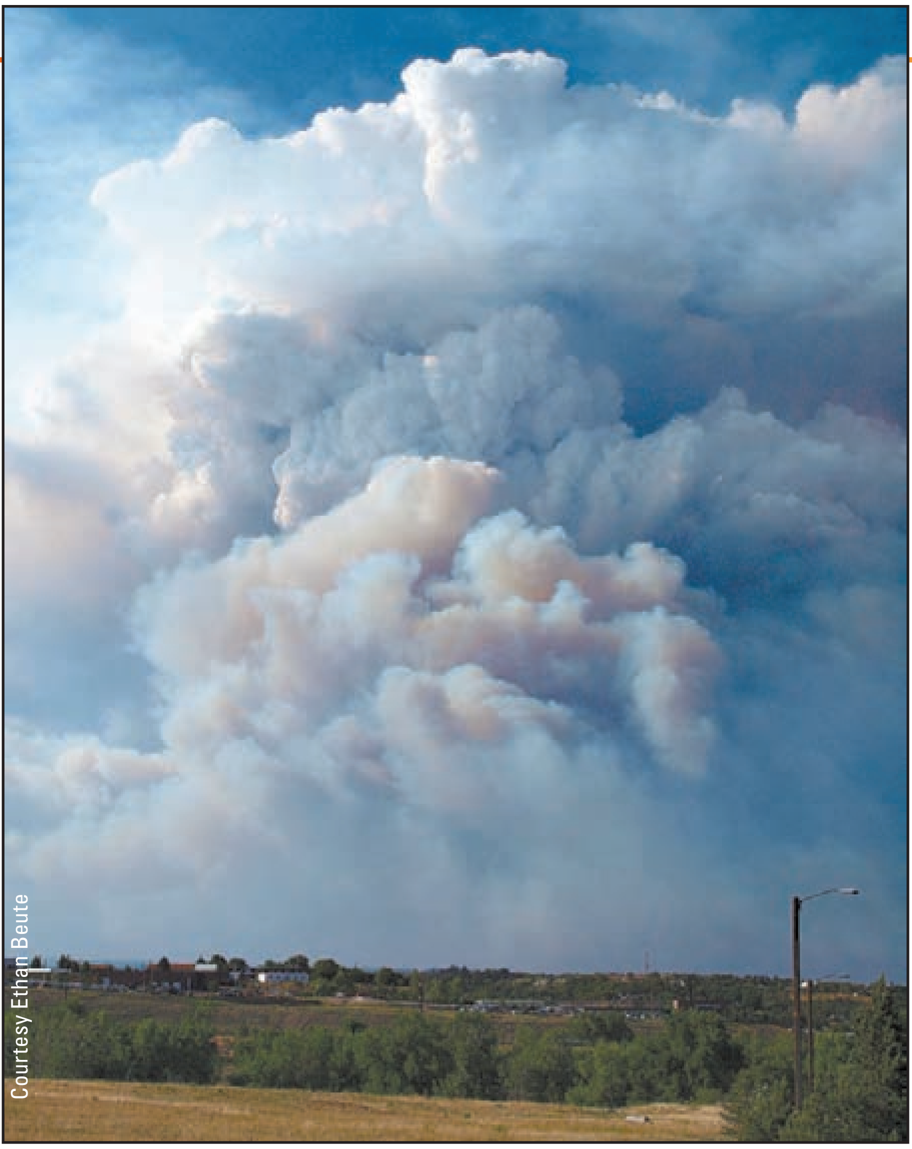
Having worked late the night before, she decided at about 2 to take a nap.

Unbeknownst to her, a strange morning in the field was turning into a scary afternoon.

It began with the Type 1 team's 6 a.m. briefing at the Incident Command Post (ICP) at Holmes Middle School. There, writes Colorado Springs Utilities wildland team chief Mike Myers, "we were told by the Fire Behavior Analyst that the day's conditions would be exactly the same as the day the Hayman fire blew up. This was communicated to the crews for heightened awareness of the expected fire behavior."

The Forest Service action plan for that day reported a Haines index — a measure of rapid forest-fire growth potential — of 6, the highest possible. The report predicted "thunderstorms with little rain and gusty outflow winds" and noted "late morning cumulus forming." Meanwhile, an earlier Forest Service report had set the moisture content of 1,000-hour fuels (dead tree trunks and branches 3 to 9 inches in diameter) at a mere 5 percent to 6 percent. Fine dead fuels, those up to a half-inch in diameter, were at 2 percent.

Darrell Schulte of Montana says such "crazy, unbelievably dry" conditions can complicate efforts to predict what a fire might do, especially if gusty winds and steep slopes are in play. A 27-year wildland fire and fuels manager with the Forest Service, Schulte is a fire behavior and planning instructor, and consultant who forecasted weather for the 2011 Texas fires.



Tuesday's ominous pyrocumulus cloud grew for hours before its collapse.

After reviewing the Forest Service's Waldo action plans, weather and fuels reports, and terrain, Schulte says, "I would expect the unexpected. Any of those canyons could bring it into town," especially considering the pyrocumulus cloud column that was forming (see "Inside the nightmare," News, July 4). Having worked with Incident Commander Rich Harvey's fire behaviorialist, Diana Allen, in the past, Schulte says the incident command team would have been "well aware of the risks." (Harvey has not replied to repeated requests for an interview.)

> **'I couldn't move. I couldn't believe what I was seeing.'**

Forest Service action plans for Monday and Tuesday had identified the city's entire western border as being in danger, and Tuesday morning brought air bombardments in the Queens Canyon area — which many in the ICP interpreted as a signal that Harvey was worried.

"Everybody knew when Queens Canyon got hit, hold onto your boot straps," says Imad Karaki, an El Paso County official who spent 20-hour days in the ICP running IT and administrative support. "I'm not a firefighter, and I knew that. All the briefings said if this fire crosses Queens Canyon, it would be huge."

A GIS burn map shows that the fire's eastern edge as of Monday's nightfall was about 3,100 feet from the bottom of Queens Canyon, 5,100 feet from the east ridge of Queens Canyon, and 8,600 feet from the ridge above Mountain Shadows. If, as Bach and Fire Chief Rich Brown have publicly asserted in recent months, the fire was slow moving at a quarter-mile per hour that morning, it still could easily have been at the city's doorstep at 11 a.m. or noon — even without gusting winds and a growing pyrocumulus cloud.

But instead of preparing for further evacuations that morning, the city was preparing to allow lower Mountain Shadows residents back *in*. The city issued a news release at 10:52 a.m., saying those evacuees could return to their homes for a half-hour. The city's incident action plans that outline operations each day show that police, who'd be responsible for checking those residents in, had signed off on the plan the night before.

(Bach has never explained publicly why that plan was created; Harrow says the mayor told her during a private meeting Nov. 14 that he'd OK'd it in response to pressure from residents.)

Forty minutes later, the order was rescinded due to "current changes in fire behavior." And by 1:40 p.m., the city was advising residents north of Chuckwagon to "consider evacuation planning."

All eyes on Queens

Capt. Steve Riker, a heavy rescue expert with no current wildland certification, was in charge of the city's deployed resources on Tuesday. In his report, the 28-year CSFD veteran says in the "early afternoon" he observed the fire "working its way to the west side of what I believed to be the west rim of Queens Canyon."

By 3 p.m., a member of Myers' wildland crew, serving as outlook on a ridge, reported a "noticeable change in weather." Meanwhile, sometime between then and 3:30, Angela Gonzalez walked out of her mom's house a few blocks east of her own home on Linger Way, just north of Chuckwagon. "The very top of the ridge was in flames," she says. "There weren't any firefighters or helicopters. It was burning. You could smell the trees on fire. I couldn't move. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

She grabbed her kids, ages 2 and 4, and headed home to get her husband. By the time she got there, "The backyard was on fire."

According to Riker's report, two task forces reported seeing cold ash fall around them at around 3 or 3:30. After that, he spoke with District Chief Mike Gower about how many resources were available and conferred with Battalion Chief Ted Collas in the ICP about evacuation decision points — places where, when fire was observed, evacuations would be ordered.

A city outline of evacuation trigger points, provided to the *Indy* in response to a records request, states that upper Mountain Shadows, Oak Valley and Peregrine were to be evacuated when fire entered lower Mountain Shadows or topped Queens Canyon's east ridge, points that would "allow CSPD approximately 3 to 4 hours to complete evacuations."

Bach has said that Forest Supervisor Jerri Marr and Harvey told the city it would have four to five hours' notice for an evacuation. Marr won't discuss the matter, brushing aside questions during a Nov. 10 restoration event at the Flying W Ranch burn site.

"We can talk about that all day long, [about] what happened," she says. "But we need to focus on going forward."

At 3:45 on the 26th, Myers notes in his report, "Air Attack Supervisor reported fire in Queens Creek," at the bottom of Queens Canyon. Eight minutes later, the lookout reports "fire in Queens Canyon and the winds picking up drastically."

Still, no evacuation order came. Those authorized to issue such orders include Bach, Brown, Waters and Police Chief Pete Carey.

Sheer panic

At the 4 p.m. news briefing, Harvey sounded nervous.

"It is pretty daunting out there," he said. "We focused our efforts earlier today on trying to keep the fire on that Rampart Ridge [sic] Road. Earlier this afternoon, it became established in Queens Canyon on the other side, the east side of Rampart Ridge [sic] Road. The activity you see behind us now is the fire moving to the north up Queens Canyon and slightly to the east with topography as it comes out of Queens Canyon. So, we're

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quite a bit concerned about that. ... It has been a challenging day, the wind, especially in Queens Canyon, the wind, the fuels, the terrain of the lines really giving us problems."

As the minutes ticked by, Riker had driven more than four miles to Allegheny Drive. There he reported fire "jumping (spotting) to the north one hundred yards at a time and then back filling, heading towards the Air Force Academy," and a helicopter pilot "waving at us to get out of the area."

At that point, the city determined "the decision point had been met," Riker reports. At 4:21, as smoke billowed in the distance, Bach interrupted the news conference with the evacuation order.

Three days before, 50 police officers had helped firefighters carry out smooth, three-hour evacuations in Cedar Heights and lower Mountain Shadows, according to Police Lt. Sean Mandel. The next day, Mandel states, 10 police officers and two sergeants returned to lower Mountain Shadows to complete "double checks." They worked methodically from top to bottom in Cedar Heights, knocking on doors, duty reports say.

Even as Queens Canyon burned, just four fire trucks worked in Mountain Shadows.

By contrast, what happened in upper Mountain Shadows — as best it can be reconstructed using personal accounts, duty reports, other documents and even YouTube videos — was bedlam. As Gonzalez fled with her family, she witnessed "a flood of police cars" enter the subdivision, along with residents. Sixty on-duty police officers raced to carry out a plan that their supervisors had devised just hours before, according to the city's aforementioned outline of evacuation trigger points. That plan called for officers to work from west to east, "ensuring that no structures have been overlooked or missed being contacted." If anyone refused to evacuate, police were to report the address and number of people there.

Starting at 4:45 p.m., fire apparatus raced to the subdivision from miles away in the city. But as they started arriving, they encountered roads jammed with 26,000 evacuees.

Some firefighters were diverted to help them. District Chief Troy Branham writes that he "assisted with immediate evacuations of individuals still in the area as the fire was racing down into the mountain shadows subdivision." Myers notes he was ordered "to assist any civilians" trying to escape, but also that "There were residents that would pass us along the road, and not paying any mind to our cries for them to stay out of the neighborhood, as they were trying to get to their houses." Task Force Leader Lt. Steve Wilch writes that firefighters were assigned to investigate "numerous reports of trapped residents," all of which turned out false.

Just as firefighters arrived in the subdivision, according to Myers, Riker ordered them to pull back — the pyrocumulus cloud had collapsed and pushed the fire with 65 mph winds. "Because of the extreme weather conditions, extreme fire behavior and very high downslope winds," reports the city in its evacuation outline, "the fire moved much more rapidly into the City than the [city's] fire behavior models had predicted."

Firefighters first were ordered to Chipeta Elementary off Flying W Ranch Road, but due to a "large wall of flames" heading for the school, Myers says, were ordered to pull back a second time to 30th Street and Garden of the Gods Road, which then became the staging area for the night.

The cops, however, apparently weren't told to pull back, according to one source who was there that day and another who has talked with cops who were. (They spoke with the *Indy* on the condition of anonymity.) Asked by e-mail about this assertion, Police Chief Pete Carey did not respond.

Officer Pete Tomitsch, in his account displayed at the Colorado Springs Together office, writes that he first used garden hoses, then an ax and a shovel, to put out fires. "In more than 45 minutes, I had not observed any person," he writes. "The neighborhoods were deserted. No people, no cars, no signs of life, except for deer running from the fire."

On Brogans Bluff, Harrow was still sleeping. She hadn't registered her cell phone with the E911 Authority, but might not have been notified anyway. City officials have acknowledged the phone system was overwhelmed and thousands of reverse-911 calls simply weren't made as they should have been.

"It was about 5:30 when I woke up because the windows were rattling," she says. "I thought I better check on that fire." When she went outside, she saw houses burning on her street.

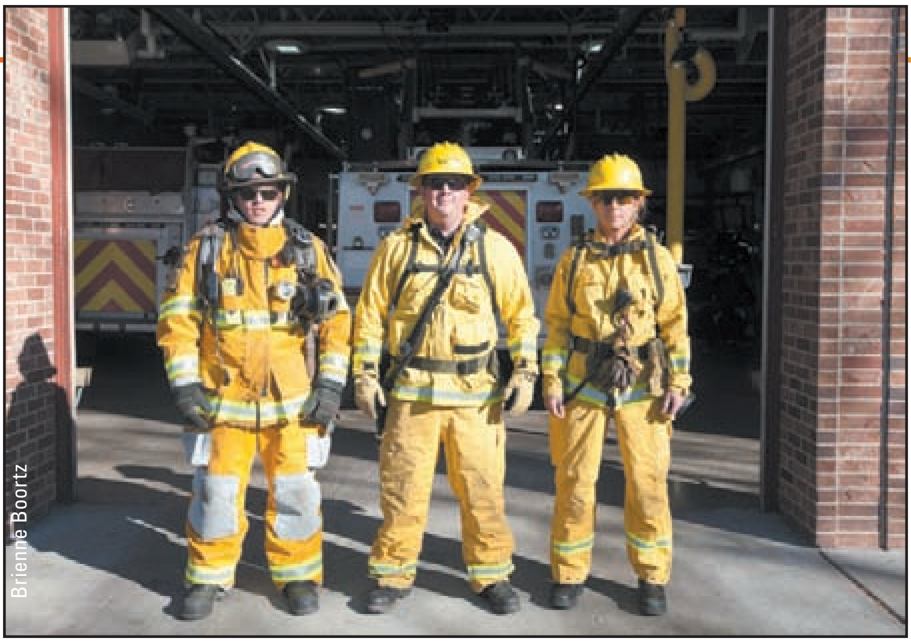
The smoke was so thick, she had trouble breathing. Knowing she'd need clothes to wear, she grabbed laundry from the dryer, then found one of her two cats. Upon fleeing, she got to Wilson and Flying W Ranch roads, where she saw nine fire trucks lined up: "I thought, 'Hey, there's a fire hydrant 10 feet from my house. You're in the wrong place.'"

Firefighters re-entered the subdivision at roughly 6 p.m.

Answering the call

CSFD Capt. Michael Wittry had already moved his logistics base, the department's only source for supplies, twice before setting up at Coronado High School at 6 a.m. Tuesday. When the fire blew up that afternoon, things got confusing again.

"'Staging is at Station 9.' was announced by unknown party," Wittry writes. "Captain Wittry tried multiple times to get per-



Brienne Boortz

Firefighters battling structure fires have to carry much heavier protective gear (see left) than those deployed in a wildland situation (center, right).

mission or orders to move to that location. Getting no answer, he made the decision to move himself to Station 9. He did not have resources to move the entire staging operation that was already set up at Coronodo [sic], which included power, Internet access, food and water supplies."

Station 9 is at 622 W. Garden of the Gods Road. Wittry reports that he met up with Fire Marshal Brett Lacey and was told "there had been a call back of all personnel and they would begin to arrive shortly." Although the city had days to plan for a major campaign, Wittry writes that "Plans were quickly sketched out for how to manage the arrival of 150 firefighters. Supplies for staging at this point consisted of a [sic] pens and pads of paper. Fire Marshal Lacey was then directed to another assignment."

But Wittry and others pulled it off, the staging area becoming "more robust as time and labor became more available." To accommodate dozens of engines flooding in from surrounding areas and other Springs stations, "Capt Wittry made the decision to occupy and utilize the parking area of the commercial occupancy (Factory Appliance Outlet) adjacent to Station 9 as a staging and rotation platform. No permission was asked or received for this use."

One thing logistics doesn't handle is medical support. There was no area set up for this until Company Officer Robert Coffey was asked via cell phone at 5:15 p.m. to report to duty, after which Deputy Chief Tommy Smith assigned him to set up a medical area at Station 9, Coffey's report states.

Coffey set to work coordinating two city medical units with American Medical Response, the emergency ambulance provider, to evacuate Mount St. Francis Nursing Center. He also made sure the city had emergency medical coverage; staffed Station 9's medical/rehab unit to evaluate firefighters for fatigue, illness and injuries; and retrieved the mass casualty trailer from Station 19 at 2490 Research Pkwy., all by 6:30.

Coffey also worked to find space for his colleagues to rest. Sources say some firefighters slept on the asphalt at Station 9 until quarters could be secured at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs dormitories on Thursday, June 28.

Wittry and Coffey's efforts are notable, because Station 9 is tightly flanked on one side by a business and the other by a road. A railroad track runs behind it. Setting up a full-fledged fire camp with space for rest, food distribution and medical services would be like setting up a used car lot in your driveway.

Chaos on the line

Wittry and Coffey weren't the only ones given nearly impossible tasks. When Tuesday started, Riker had six apparatus to cover the 10-mile western border of the city from the Air Force Academy to Highway 24.

He assigned one engine and one smaller wildland engine to cover the area west of Centennial Boulevard and Vindicator Drive north to the Air Force Academy. He sent two Utilities brush trucks, glorified pickup trucks with water and a pump, led by nine-year team member Myers, to provide structure protection for everything from 30th Street and Garden of the Gods Road west to Rampart Range Road and south to Highway 24. Finally, he sent another wildland engine and a brush truck to provide structure protection to the entire upper and lower Mountain Shadows area.

After the ominous morning briefing, Riker's resources didn't change.

Not until 4:11 did city officials seek help from Denver fire departments, some of which already were on the fire as requested by Harvey's team. Around 4:30, Riker asked for more engines; a dozen CSFD apparatus were dispatched by 4:45, some coming from as far away as Jet Wing Drive and Tutt Boulevard. (At 5:21 p.m., El Paso County put out an all-county page for extra resources for the city; units came from Fountain, Calhan, Stratmoor Hills, Fort Carson, Black Forest, Security,

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As for Station 18, located on Mountain Shadows' north end, its personnel had been sitting at quarters all day. The crew reported "flames on Front Range ridge top behind Station 18 with spotting 1/3... the way down the mountain" at 4:10 p.m., and was dispatched 35 minutes later to Chuckwagon and Flying W Ranch roads. The crew at Station 12, 445 W. Rockrimmon Blvd., watched another engine whiz by with lights and siren, prompting Capt. Kathleen MacLaren to ask dispatch if her company was shown as available. "At [4:45], we were then tapped out to a grass fire call," she reports.

MacLaren's report goes on to say, "To my recollection, we were not advised who command was. However, it was obvious that Acting Chief Riker was the strike team leader. Later, he began answering as command. I did not hear command named or located. After several hours, I did not hear Chief Riker responding as command."

MacLaren, who's been with CSFD for 15 years, also reports that "No strategy was declared." While some units were bringing 1.5-inch hoses toward structures in the early stages of the firefight, she reports that her engine, E56, didn't: "It was not advised due to the massive wave of flames rolling toward the area." Paramedic Alexandra Del Gaudio reports that the crew of Brush Truck 18 was "compelled to break lines," leaving even their hoses behind, to avoid the advancing firestorm.

At least a half dozen firefighters describe moving from one assignment to the next in Tuesday night's early stages without knowing an overall plan. But even as they got over the initial confusion and were sent back into Mountain Shadows for the long haul, they encountered organizational surprises. Engine 18, for example, reports it come upon two engines from Highway 115 Fire District "that were lost."

"They attached themselves to us," the crew reports. Engine 18 first helped MacLaren's task force make a stand on Flying W Ranch Road east of Ashton Park Place. District Chief Lawrence Schwarz then directed it to put out a roof fire on Rossmere and Ashton Park. After that, Battalion Chief Jim Schanel directed the crew to hose down backyards, and put out a roof fire, on Rossmere.

Heavy Rescue 17, responding from a prior medical call at Rockrimmon Boulevard and Woodmen Road, was ready to help. But it sat idle at the 30th Street staging area for an unknown length of time, along with three other apparatus, until one of its members, unable to reach anyone by radio, literally walked to the command post to announce the company was there.

Eventually, Tiffany Square on Corporate Drive was designated a staging point for incoming Denver units. But Royal notes he received "reports of other out of town companies going directly into the fire area without checking in with command or staging."

And because the department hadn't made maps in advance for out-of-town engines, crew's like Company Officer P.J. Langmaid's were told to "split all our companies and place one member on each Denver Fire rig as a point of contact and communications/operations liaison." But as he notes, that strategy didn't last. "This plan changes when resources from Cedar Heights arrive," he writes.

Company Officer Matthew Clark, assigned to oversee three task forces in Cedar Heights, reports he made "numerous calls" to the Fire Department Operations Center seeking permission to go to Mountain Shadows after the fire blew into the city. But he didn't get permission to move until 8 p.m., according to Engine 13 Company Officer John Aker Jr., who served with Clark. And the crews didn't head for Tiffany Square until an hour later.

When they finally arrived, "they remained in staging for approximately 1.5 hours," Aker writes, and weren't assigned to the subdivision firestorm until 11:30 p.m., along with crew from other apparatus.

Back at 30th Street, Riker reports, he, Gower and Myers tracked units using dry-erase markers on a map taped to the hood of Myers' Chevy Tahoe. "At times, the map was filled with writing," Riker writes, "and units had to be tracked by writing on the sides of the hood." They had no command post until after midnight, when the police department's command post was delivered to them. "Its lack of work space did not allow us to function in a coordinated manner, so the CSFD command vehicle was sent to our location," Riker writes.

"It was not requested earlier," he adds, "because we thought it was still out of service for a [sic] electrical and air conditioner problems that took it out of service on Sunday, the 24th." The command vehicle rolled up at 1:30 a.m.

Singular city

There's an element of irony in Colorado Springs eventually relying upon three dozen fire departments to help respond to the Waldo Canyon Fire: When the fire broke out on federal land, city leaders sometimes showed little interest in cooperation.

Then-County Attorney Bill Louis says Saturday night, county officials and state Rep. Bob Gardner gathered in Green Mountain Falls to sign a delegation of authority that would enable state and federal agencies to pick up the tab for local-jurisdiction firefighting efforts on state and federal lands. The city was invited to sign it. "They specifically refused," Louis says.

The next day, the city did sign its *own* delegation of authority — but apparently made it clear its fire personnel would remain separate from Harvey's team, which arrived Sunday night. In a July 16 interview, Brown said he specified in the city's delegation of authority that the city, and no one else, would have control if the fire crossed into Colorado Springs.

Brown said that he insisted to the ICP, "You're not going to run the fire once it comes into the city." Records show that city resources throughout were dispatched by fire headquarters on Printers Parkway, not the ICP at Holmes Middle School. Brown didn't have a day-to-day presence at the ICP; instead, he and other city officials relied on reports delivered daily in person by Deputy Chief Steve Dubay to three different sites in the city, including fire headquarters.

In addition, Dubay notes in his report that he told Harvey's operations chief on Sunday that he, Dubay, would be responsible for CSFD resources, and that they weren't subject to assignment by the Incident Management Team.

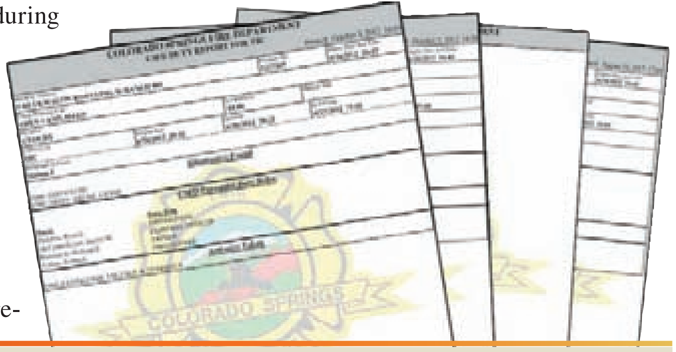
City assignments placed excruciating demands on some firefighters. According to the duty reports, one chief got an hour and 15 minutes between duty assignments. Two crews relieved at 2 a.m. Tuesday were ordered back to duty five hours later. Company Officer Carrick Patterson expressed "safety concerns" after he pulled a 36-hour shift starting at 7 a.m. Wednesday, during which he oversaw 12 different crews on six apparatus. Six firefighters suffered minor injuries, and 52 firefighters were sent home due to fatigue.

The International Association of Firefighters Local 5 has presented Brown with a list of 15 "concerns," most of which deal with the Waldo fire, sources close to Local 5 say. The city refuses to release the document, instead issuing the *Indy* an affidavit signed by Brown on Oct. 16 saying, "This list is a one page document that describes employees' candid opinions about Fire Department issues and/or suggestions/recommendations as to how CSFD may improve in these particular areas."

Disclosure, he says, "will cause substantial injury to the public interest as it will have a chilling effect on the predecisional and deliberative process" by discouraging employees from sharing candid opinions with management.

Not coming back

As adamant as the city was that its personnel operate independently during the fire, it looks equally



About the duty reports

By Pam Zubeck

Portions of our stories this week are based on 116 duty reports spanning 227 pages filed by Colorado Springs Fire Department firefighters who worked the Waldo Canyon Fire. The *Independent* obtained the reports under the Colorado Open Records Act, and they were provided in several phases as they were filed over a three-month period.

Every fire company assigned to an apparatus is expected to report on any incident to which it's been dispatched, according to Deputy Chief Steve Dubay. The report is designed to document what happened when, and who was involved. Data include dispatch and arrival times; weather conditions; which firefighters were on board; and what actions were taken.

Reports for the Waldo Canyon Fire weren't required to be filed at the end of shift, as is usually the case. Rather, the deadline was Sept. 30, so firefighters had "an opportunity to get their thoughts right," as put by Dubay in an Aug. 22 interview.

The Fire Department decided to have firefighters report under two separate incident numbers. The first was for the Cedar Heights call-out June 23, for which 38 reports were filed. The second was for June 26 when the homes burned, for which 47 reports were filed.

Nothing that happened Sunday, June 24, or Monday, June 25, was considered a separate incident, according to Dubay, so reports for those days weren't required. "They don't have to write a report for every time they move," he said.

Still, 10 firefighters filed reports for Sunday, a day during which 23 apparatus were dispatched to Cedar Heights, and three filed reports for Monday, when 11 apparatus were on duty in Cedar Heights and four in Mountain Shadows. The city also provided 10 reports for Wednesday, and eight for the four days that followed.

The 116 reports vary dramatically. District chiefs tend to report events in great detail, noting which trucks and engines did what and strategic maneuvers, among other things. Some others' reports are so brief as to be almost meaningless.

For example, Brush Truck 12 is reported to have responded from an "unknown" location Sunday, June 24, and stayed on duty until July 1. The narrative states: "It is unknown who was on this veh[icle]. It was deployed for over a week with different people on it. It was at Cedar Heights on structure protection — no action taken. It was in Mt Shadows — unknown action taken. It was in Peregrine — unknown tasks performed."

Nevertheless, most reports describe company actions, in often-compelling ways, that have allowed the *Independent* to reconstruct the city's fire response. As we've done so, we've attempted to highlight details that speak to themes seen throughout the reports.

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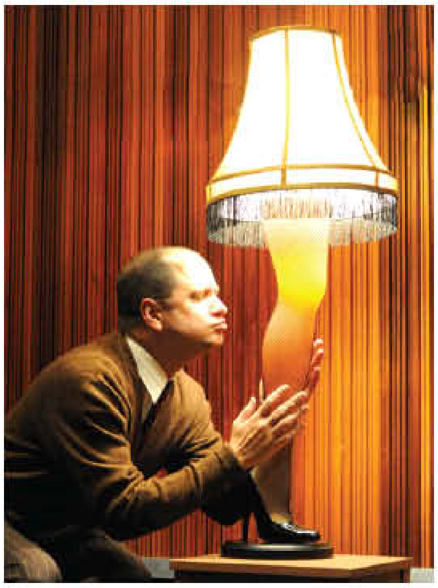

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Floyd D. Tunson, Untitled 96 (version 1) (detail)
2005, Mixed media, 48 x 48 inches

Fine Arts Center
COLORADO SPRINGS

A Christmas Story supported by El Pomar Foundation, Fidelity Investment, KKTV, KLite 106.3, Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, Colorado Springs Independent, The Mining Exchange, a Wyndham Grand Hotel, H. Chase Stone Trust, Members of the Fine Arts Center

Son of Pop supported by El Pomar Foundation, The Anschutz Foundation, The Bee Vradenburg Foundation, The Mary K. Chapman Foundation, Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Colorado Springs Independent, KKTV, KRCC, Ron and Una Brasch and members of the Fine Arts Center

Pam Zubeck

The Everetts are buried here at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver.

adamant now that its personnel alone examine the response. No third party has been engaged to review the city's performance, which often is requested when a fire kills people.

"I would think that an 'outside' opinion of the way the fire was handled would be valuable to the entities, because it would most likely be less biased by internal politics, etc.," Schulte, the Montana consultant, says via e-mail.

Gordon Routley, a former fire chief and consultant who's investigated high-profile fatal fires, says the problem with internal reviews is, "Everybody is looking to cover their ass."

It's worth noting that Routley helped investigate a 2007 fire in Charleston, S.C., that killed nine firefighters. The investigation linked the deaths to lack of strategy, command problems and a lack of "accountability" of firefighters.

In firefighting terms, accountability means tracking who's doing what on a fire. If a crew doesn't check in or out, it's impossible to know who's on the fire line, and who might be missing due to injury.

While some of Tuesday night's accountability issues may be understandable, even predictable, CSFD was struggling with this even early Sunday morning in Cedar Heights. Just before midnight, Company Officer David Broch responded as the "accountability officer" there, and soon found that "staffing levels were off from what was thought to have been on the fire. Some crew members did not swap out in the morning which left more crew members on the fire than the crew swap planned for. This was unsafe and unnecessary and reported to the [CSFD headquarters]."

Perhaps a third party would identify accountability as one of the "weaknesses of the system that could be addressed," as Routley puts it. Perhaps it would disagree with the city's Initial After Action Report assessment that city "strengths" included collaboration between police and fire officials, the evacuation and planning. Either way, a nationally known, top-tier investigator could give an in-depth assessment for somewhere between $60,000 and a few hundred thousand dollars, according to Christine Meier, executive director of strategic planning for the National Association of Fire Investigators.

CAPSULE

The 166 duty reports, along with a chart describing CSFD's organizational structure, can be found with this story online at csindy.com.

No government official or agency, however, appears interested.

So at least until the city's final After Action Report comes out next year, the focus will likely remain on rebuilding homes and restoring the forest. Officials and residents alike will, naturally, continue to celebrate many of the small steps in bringing Mountain Shadows back to health.

Still, William and Barbara Everett won't be coming back. In fact their deaths have largely been ignored: no funeral coverage in the media, no public talk of, say, naming a park in their honor. Even the city's report doesn't name them, referring only once to "two fatalities."

Perhaps that's because not much is known about William, a 74-year-old Vietnam veteran, who lived at 2910 Rossmere St. with his 73-year-old wife. William's brother, John, isn't giving interviews.

But what *is* known is that they planned to flee that afternoon.

"Investigative information indicates that the decedent and his wife called a relative from their home," the El Paso County Coroner's Office report states, "indicating that they were in the process of evacuating their house shortly before the home caught fire."

Both died from "thermal injuries and smoke inhalation," the coroner's office ruled. In starker terms: When fire overtook their house, it likely was 1,100 degrees or hotter, and pitch black with smoke. They would have felt their skin melting and fusing with their clothing, their lungs searing.

Dr. Harrow drove near their house as she fled that day. "If I had known they were there, I could have stopped to help them," she says.

The tragedy left Harrow with a bitter lesson. "You can't sit back and expect the government to save your ass," she says. "You're on your own, baby."

— zubeck@csindy.com

Men in the 'box'

Fire Department heroes talk strategy — and the federal boost that prevented greater calamity

By Pam Zubeck

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Brienne Boortz

Jim Schanel: 'You say, "Where can I anchor and make small victories?"'

Pam Zubeck

Well before most help arrived, Flying W Ranch had burned to the ground.

Battalion Chief Jim Schanel had been told to go home that day. But he wound up directing the city's makeshift effort to subdue the Waldo Canyon Fire after it surged into Mountain Shadows on Tuesday, June 26.

For 12 hours, Schanel didn't even stop for a drink of water as he barked orders to trucks, engines and hand crews in efforts to halt the fire's march eastward. Had sparks taken hold in Ute Valley Park just east of Mountain Shadows, the fire could have raced to Interstate 25 and beyond, he says.

"If it got into the bluffs, we were in trouble," Schanel says. "You had that knot in your stomach, thinking, 'If we don't stop this, nobody's here to do it.' You wonder, 'Am I even gonna get out of this myself?'

"I'm not lying to you," he adds. "I was terrified. You're a big, tough guy, but when you're facing that, you know this is beyond what we can manage."

In a 90-minute interview at Station 4 on Nov. 9, Schanel and Capt. Ed Breece agreed to sit down over a map of the burn area and stiff firehouse coffee to talk about how the Colorado Springs Fire Department finally overcame being outflanked by the magnitude of the fire and tamed the monster.

A slow start

Schanel, 55, is the department's most highly trained and experienced wildland firefighter, with 25 years on the force. But he'd been sent home Tuesday morning for rest, despite federal firefighting officials' warning of worsening weather conditions, after working 24 hours straight in Cedar Heights.

Around 4:30 p.m., Schanel saw a towering thundercloud over the city and he self-deployed, slogging through heavy evacuation traffic. When his pickup truck broke down, he caught a ride to Station 9 on Garden of the Gods Road. Finally, about an hour later, he arrived at the impromptu staging area on 30th Street in a fire utility vehicle. That was minutes after Capt. Steve Riker, serving as incident commander that day, had called for firefighters to retreat into safe spaces.

Schanel, however, decided to size up the blaze. Although, per Schanel, Riker remained incident commander into Wednesday morning, Schanel drew up the plans for how the fire would be attacked. (Schanel says he never saw Chief Rich Brown at the fire that night.)

Heading north on Flying W Ranch Road by himself, "it was a lonely drive," Schanel says. "I really thought, 'I'm going to see an engine or two burned over.' I had not been in an environment where firefighters had been at so much risk, so quickly, in my career."

He could see that flames had swept through drainages at Alabaster Way, Mountain Shadows Open Space and Lanagan Street. Homes steamed, fire jumped from house to house, and sparks showered. The heat was so intense — it would later blister paint on engines — he knew firefighters couldn't get within 500 feet without endangering their respiratory systems.

With no pre-placement of resources before the cloud collapsed and mutual aid not yet on scene, Schanel made a "Hail Mary" plea. He called for 15 strike teams — or 75 engines — "knowing the order could not be filled in time to effect a change," as he writes in his report.

In the interview, he says he really needed 150 engines, but had only 15 to 18, for the entire Mountain Shadows area when the fire started gobbling up homes. "We needed tons of stuff *right now*," he remembers, "and it wasn't going to happen."

He returned to 30th Street, where Riker had a map of Mountain Shadows. "I just drew with a black dry-erase marker, I said, 'Riker, we need to stop it here, here and here'" — the area north of Chuckwagon Road, the Parkside neighborhood on Majestic Drive, and a lower portion that included Lanagan.

He put himself in charge of the diciest branch, north of Chuckwagon, while Breece and District Chief Troy Branham took charge of the two southern areas, considered a separate branch.

Making their stand

Their only chance, Schanel figured, was to "box" the fire, by preventing flames from taking hold east of Centennial Boulevard, north of Vindicator Drive or south of 30th Street. "We take into consideration man-made or geographic features that allow us to hold it," he says. "Paved streets gave us our best firebreak in surface fuels and gave us accessibility."

Schanel positioned some of the 13 to 15 engines he had on Flying W Ranch Road and the others on Rossmere Street and Linger Way. "You take that small group and you say, 'Where can I anchor and make small victories?"

Down south, Breece and Branham had only five engines for the south branch to which they had been assigned.

"As a firefighter, you have a lot of ownership," says Breece, who's been with the department for 23 years. "You have that feeling that you know you can make a difference and you want to make a difference. The issue became we didn't have the resources to commit to that. There were too many structures [burning] at both ends [of Parkside], so we couldn't safely put anyone in there to stop that."

Then about 8 or 8:30 p.m., Schanel, Breece and Branham got lucky. The U.S. Forest Service released hot shot teams, and engines arrived in the firefight. "By policy they're not supposed to engage structures directly," Schanel says, since wildland firefighting and structure firefighting demand such different training and equipment. "I said, 'I know this isn't your environment, but can you help?' They said, 'Yeah, we're here to help.'"

Schanel directed the big engines to hook to hydrants, a risk when fire is actively spotting and could trap firefighters. He used the lighter-weight Forest Service trucks to protect the rear and ordered the small trucks and hand crews to squelch spot fires, cut burning decks from homes, and catch burning trees.

"If they had not been there, we wouldn't have held the fire. It would have been impossible," Schanel says. "There were too many spots going on, too many ignitions, too much leapfrogging over us. When they showed up it was like a godsend. We were losing the battle. We were trying as best could, but we were just limited in resources."

Breece says the Forest Service doubled his number of engines to 10 — all he had until Pueblo County Fire arrived at 11 p.m. with more. Finally, at the height of the firefight, 70 engines stationed throughout the subdivision pumped water at a rate ranging from 500 to 1,250 gallons per minute, Schanel says.

In the end, Parkside would lose 141 homes. Schanel's crew, though, would save all but 18 homes total on Rossmere and Linger. And two roads where Breece resolved to make a stand, Wilson Road and Champagne Drive, together lost just 14.

'How you learn'

During the firefight, Schanel says, communications faltered. Various agencies used incompatible radios and frequencies, he says; even Springs firefighters weren't able to reach a commander, fire reports show. Schanel blames part of the Springs problem on some 50 to 60 transmissions per minute flooding the radios.

In addition, mutual aid engines drove into the fire without checking in, and some Springs firefighters were confused about who, if anyone, was the commander.

"There were people who were without leadership initially," he says. "Not only did it race way past our capability, it raced way past our experience level to manage it.

"I'll be honest with you," Schanel says, "at one point, I really thought some firefighters were going to be badly injured. That's a scary premise. These people will do anything for us. I thought, 'We have to stop it, and if we don't stop it, there's nobody else left.'"

Looking back on it now, he hopes the situation triggers better preparation.

"I hope we can all come together in a room and work things out for the future," he says. "That's how you learn. From a systems picture, this was pretty new to everybody. Not to give people excuses, but when a community is insulted with something of such magnitude, we are more vulnerable than we thought. I think for the future we should pay attention to what Mother Nature is telling us and plan better."

For him, the scramble only let up when dawn broke over the smoldering heaps of 345 homes, and he thought to grab some water.

"I was running on adrenaline," he says. "I never remember being this tired in my life."

— zubeck@csindy.com

Rebecca Tillett

SEVEN DAY’S TO

12 Wednesday

dance party

You hit swing lessons on Mondays, tango on Tuesdays, Zumba on Wednesdays, line dance on Thursdays, and whichever club is hopping the most on the weekends. So you'll be beyond excited to learn of UCCS' Galleries of Contemporary Arts inaugural **Lunch Beat**. Held at **GOCA 121** (121 S. Tejon St., uccs.edu/goca), this international phenom — aka dance your ass off for 60 minutes — is like a local daytime, drug-free rave. A five-buck donation gets you in the door from noon to 1 and a meal to take back to the office with you. RSVP to lunchbeatcos.eventbrite.com. And don't bother coming if you aren't going to get your groove on (or just want to talk work). — ***KA***

13 Thursday

music

"This song has pissed some people off," says country artist Corey Smith of his "Fuck the Po-Po" ditty. But as he explains, it's really just a way to exercise his freedom of speech, versus going through the court system to complain about an arrest, night in jail and $300 fine for his spouting the F-word near a cop. The song's on his 2012 fall release *Live in Chattanooga*, so he'll likely break it out, along with other such Second Amendment-esque titles as "Speak the Truth" and "Stand Our Ground" at his 7 p.m. show at **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, stargazerstheatre.com, $10 to $15). — ***KA***

14 Friday

music

Granted, the local music prodigy was on last week's cover, but since all our attention spans continue to shrink, we want to remind you about tonight's **Grant Sabin CD release show** at **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, stargazerstheatre.com). Bear in mind that the **Haunted Windchimes** are also on the bill, since — fair warning — they've come close to selling out the venue all by themselves. (Trivia fact: Both acts played the same venue at this year's Indy Music Awards Festival.) Sabin's *Anthromusicology* is his first album for the Windchimes' Blank Tape Records label, and for the $20 admission price, a copy of the CD is included. Showtime is 8 p.m., with Denver's Chimney Choir doing opening honors. — ***BF***

Bradley Flora

15 Saturday

holiday

For the rare child's Christmas wish-list that includes such activities as jingle-bell wagon rides and lantern light tours, beyond photo time on Santa's lap, may we present a **Holiday Evening** from 4 to 8 tonight at **Rock Ledge Ranch** (3105 Gateway Road, rockledgeranch.com). Of course, the living history museum can't spring to special-occasion life without blacksmithing demos too, and if a barn dance isn't your speed, there's also gift shopping to be enjoyed alongside hot cider and other seasonally appropriate snacks. Point being: It's going to be a lovely evening to kick off the 10-day countdown to Christmas, vintage-style. Admission runs $4 to $8. — ***MS***

16 Sunday

holiday

Deck the Ramps with lots of ollies. / Fa la la la la, la la la la. / Tis the season to be gnarly. / Fa la la la la, la la la la.

Join local nonprofit Sk-8-Strong at **Memorial Skateboard Park** (1605 E.

LIVE

Pikes Peak Ave., sk8-strong.org) from 1 to 5 today for **Deck the Ramps**, an afternoon spent decorating (bring lights or garland) and skating this year's new mini-ramp and vert ramp. Skaters and spectators are encouraged to bring canned food or money for Springs Rescue Mission, and to receive a free drink courtesy of Dutch Brothers. Highlights include the Mini-Ramp Competition, an Open Vert Session, and the lighting of the ramps at sunset. — *KL*

17 Monday

holiday

OK, so there's no rhino at this holiday walk (see tomorrow's blurb), but there's no better time to hit the off-season **Denver Botanic Gardens** (1007 York St., Denver, botanicgardens.org) than right now for its annual **Blossoms of Light** event, in which over one million lights are strung throughout the complex, electrifying all things brown and bare. For a little more homestead and a little less Japanese pond and garden, hit up the **Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield** (8500 W. Deer Creek Canyon Road, Littleton) for its **Trail of Lights**, which also boasts a six-figure light count. Both exhibits run nightly through Jan. 1 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and cost $7 to $12. — *EA*

18 Tuesday

holiday

Yes, the **Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's** (4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, cmzoo.org) **Electric Safari** features over 1 million lights a-twinkling, more than 40 animated light sculptures a-blinking, and lectures from zookeepers a-talking, all available through Jan. 1 (except for Christmas Eve). There are Sky Rides, and Santa sits and a variety of exhibits to eyeball. But the zoo just brought a new black rhinoceros into its fold, and you might get to see him, too. You hear me? A black rhino! An endangered animal so endangered one of its subspecies is already extinct. So go see Jumbe, a 2,658-pound Eastern black rhinoceros, and wish him a merry Christmas. — *BC*

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Bill Forman, Kiki Lenihan and Matthew Schniper.

Window shopping

Local artwork makes a return to vacant storefronts downtown

By Joshua Michael Torres

Downtown is facing an artistic takeover. While plenty lament the blight of numerous empty storefronts dotting the area, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region has come up with one way to fill a few of them with a different type of tenant.

Led by COPPeR community and arts developer Michael Dooley, *Art in Storefronts* has just launched with four locally developed installations. Dooley hopes to make it an ongoing and sustainable initiative, but first he's testing the waters and gathering information on how to hold such a non-traditional and somewhat noncommittal art show.

To begin, Dooley worked with downtown landlords and then put out a call for artists. After having received numerous submissions, he assembled a team of community members to choose which projects would go on display. (The panel included Modbo co-owner Brett Andrus; Jon Khoury, executive director of Cottonwood Center for the Arts; downtown business owner Joseph Coleman; Hannah Parsons, interim director of the Downtown Partnership; and Edie Adelstein, assigning editor of this article, among others). According to COPPeR executive director Christina McGrath, what was most important to the jurors was selecting pieces that displayed excellence in form and meaning, and also that were so visually engaging that they could stop passersby in their tracks.

This isn't people hanging pretty pictures up in old windows with a fresh wash of Windex.

"We are advocating for projects that took the space as part of the art itself," Dooley says. "A perfect example is Sara Velez's project. [She] proposed a project to do a photo shoot inside the vacant store window with models. ... We are encouraging people to take over the space rather than use it as a display case."

Mary Vandezande, whose work is a marriage of canvas, oil paint and sculpture, was another good fit for this endeavor. Her inspiration is forged deep within the French artist Henri Matisse's idea of being able to make something so wonderful that somebody can come home and sit and stare into the abyss of the painting, lost in thought.

"It's a win-win situation," she says of *Art in Storefronts*. "It's a much more attractive and interesting place to get people to see art that is usually in museums that they don't usually go out of their way to see. It's a populist idea with a lot of appeal."

But while that's all well and good, the initiative also had to work closely with the building owners to tailor the artwork to each structure and its owner's personal aesthetics — a tack not taken back in 2007, when the Downtown Partnership launched a similar project. Artist Jocelyn Nevel's "Freedom," which incorporated thong pantyliners, had to be removed per the wishes of the landlord.

The first four storefront initiatives will be on display until the buildings are leased.

"There has been a lot of excitement already," Dooley says, adding that other business owners have already inquired about buying the art, and that COPPer is getting some great comments about the project on its Facebook page.

"However, most of the great feedback has been word-of-mouth from people walking by the installation while I've been on-site doing various tasks," he says.

COPPeR hopes to have another open call for artists in the spring, to keep this going for as long as it can — which viewers already seem to support. Dooley says he's heard from people that "every city needs this kind of project."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Art in Storefronts

"Body Knowing Space Part 2," by Sarah Velez (117 E. Bijou St.)

"The Storefront Project," by Mary Vandezande (121 E. Bijou St.)

"I Live in COS," by Austin Buck (326 N. Tejon St.)

"Revival," by Amy Seltzer (130 E. Pikes Peak Ave.)

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/copperartinstorefronts and iliveincos.com.

Sculptural Pa
Mary Vandeza
Art in Storefront
COPPeR

4 Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
National Ballet of Denver: An Evening of Stars, 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Pikes Peak Center

Before you know it
Christmas Day. Seriously.

Potato pick
The 25th season of *COPS* premieres at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 on FOX

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Appetite

Full steam ahead

A second CMB goes all-out on the west side

By Bryce Crawford

There comes a time in every local's life when a poor family member, probably hailing from a flat, boring part of the country, arrives in town yearning for that quintessential elevated experience. Here's where you can save a whole lot of time and just hit the new west-side location of Colorado Mountain Brewery.

Bradley Flora

The new brewery has strong bones, rich menu items, expansive views and of course, good beer.

It's a gorgeous, two-level eatery with a crystal-clear view of the hills, and the second salvo from co-owner Scott Koons, just two years after the original CMB opened on Interquest Parkway.

But this one ain't like that one. Though it's a branch off the same tree, it's better.

Where the north-side location has always struck me, from tone to taste, as kind of a generic focus-group concept, the newbie comes with ready-made character. It's part of what you get in the former Midland Terminal Railroad Roundhouse, a building that's been around since before Colorado City was considered old.

Beyond that, the homey restaurant, colored in tans, browns, black and stone, is just done up right. A staircase curving over a two-sided fireplace is the first thing you see. The semi-open kitchen is in the top-right corner, while a large bar with an impressive rack of TVs dominates the left side before giving way to the patio and its own mammoth, two-sided fireplace overlooking Highway 24. With nods to current restaurant-design trends, like bar seating in front of the kitchen, you can see every dollar of the millions in renovations that went into the place.

CAPSULE

Colorado Mountain Brewery

600 S. 21st St., #180, 466-8240, cmbrew.com

Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

And, while largely sticking to entrées unique to the new location, we found the food fared fine. One easy reason is the blue-tiled, wood-fired oven kicking out handmade pizza creations ($11) like the Italian Deli, or the Mediterranean. Both sporting hot, chewy crusts, the former buried layers of sopressata and pepperoni under a tangle of arugula; the latter combined a beautiful basil pesto with Kalamata olives, onions, artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes and, in a fit of genius, chorizo.

We paired that with beers by Andy Bradley, including a perfectly balanced Christmas ale ($6) that lovingly sported a candy-cane garnish; an epic, amber-colored rye IPA ($5), a cavalcade of biting, citrusy hops and rye notes; and, unfortunately, a flat brown ale ($5) full of off-putting, medicinal finishing flavors.

Elsewhere, three bacon-wrapped sea scallops ($12) furthered my addiction to soft, grilled sweetness, though the chili-garlic sauce underwhelmed. The striped bass ($18) brought overcooked filets plated atop an overcooked, soupy mound of mussels, but at least the bouillabaisse was worth the cost of extra bread to sop it up.

The Colorado Mixed Grill ($24) — featuring a quarter-rack of lamb wrapped in silky fat; a Gorgonzola-crusted beef filet (delicious, though cooked much rarer than requested); and sliced wild-boar sausage — was the highlight of dinner. And the duo of house-baked, soft jumbo pretzels ($7), and the charred Gray's Peak burger ($10.50 and full of bacon, onion rings, blue cheese and the A1-like Pickapeppa sauce), took care of the afternoon.

Personnel-wise, our servers were night and day, the first forgetting silverware, steak knives, and a dessert menu; the second busting her ass in the middle of a rush just to get us to-go boxes. But it all evened out in the afterglow that comes from a big, bourbon-y, housemade bread pudding ($7) and Barista Espresso's rich, black mud.

*— **bryce@csindy.com***

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

New island breeze

Two words: conch fritters.

When Lunita Ferguson goes home to the Bahamas, the crispy breaded shellfish nuggets are one of the first items she seeks out, often at Nassau's famed Arawak Cay, known also as "The Fish Fry." It's a lively gathering spot for locals, something of a food-and-drink-court attached to an outdoor music venue that's usually bumping with live reggae, Junkanoo, calypso and merengue sounds.

All of which Ferguson and her husband Amos are aiming to capture, thematically, at **Three Delights Caribbean Grill** (4747 Flintridge Drive, threedelights.com), which opened in the former City of Philly Cheese Steaks space in late October. The overhead music and Bahamian photos on the wall set the scene, but the authentic island food (not a far cry from Jamaican cuisine) is of course the main attraction.

Three Delights offers a daily-changing menu, anchored by all-the-time staples like jerk and chicken curry and barbecue, plus rotating seafood specials ranging from grouper and shrimp to barracuda, plus typical sides such as coconut rice, baked island macaroni 'n cheese and cornmeal flatbread "Johnnycakes."

Once the Fergusons obtain a liquor license, they aim to add Kalik beer, homemade rum punch and Bahamian favorites like Sky Juice (gin and coconut water) — "drinks you won't get anywhere else around here," says Lunita.

Greetings from Guadalajara

In the former Poblano's Family Mexican Restaurant space at 7336 McLaughlin Road in Falcon, **Guadalajara Family Mexican Restaurant (**494-0700) opened in early October. The business is an extension of the original Aurora location, opened roughly 11 years ago, according to co-owner Modesto Ramos. There are also currently locations open in Castle Rock and Elizabeth, collectively operated by Ramos and two cousins.

As the name implies, the eatery serves traditional Guadalajara-style cuisine based on family recipes (with some Americanized plates for the less adventurous), all three meals, seven days a week. Breakfast delivers authentic plates like *chilaquiles con huevos* (tortilla chips under green chile and cheese with eggs), huevos rancheros and Mexican-style omelets. Lunch and dinner deliver everything from a stone-bowl-served *molcajete* (steak, chicken and pork in an avocado tomatillo sauce) to seafood entrées like *caldo de siete mares* (a complex seafood soup) that one *Indy* reader and GFMR fan (who says he frequently commuted to the Elizabeth location) likens to "bouillabaisse I ate on the Mediterranean."

That reader also recommends asking for the mushroom salsa and/or frijoles dip, served complimentary, but only by request next to the regular house salsa with warm chips.

— Matthew Schniper

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As described in our Side Dish column last month, incoming chef Jake Ainsworth has indeed elevated the level of cuisine at Canyon, making it much more than just a coffee stop — though the Washington-based Dillanos Coffee Roasters java, as evidenced by my **decaf Americano** ($1.75), is excellent.

A cup of **pumpkin bisque** ($3) is potent with curry spice and creamed by coconut milk, not bearing any seafood stock (as is classically correct in a true bisque) but utilizing some chicken base for depth. The **spinach and salmon salad** ($10) most notably sports a warm bacon vinaigrette made with bacon grease and served with ample ham hunks. The pan-seared salmon's brain-pleasingly fatty oil blends with the bacon's to coat the sweet strawberries and wilt the underlying greens. Even two house-baked ciabatta toast points stand out with a sourdough-esque yeastiness amplified by kosher salt. *— **Matthew Schniper***

I Love Pho

1817 S. Nevada Ave., 328-1000

Meet I Love Pho, formerly Gloni Italian Street Food, formerly TK's Mongolian Grill, soon to be a self-serve frozen yogurt shop (not really) if the owner continues his trend of overhauling cuisines every handful of months. Point being: Get it while you can, because it may be something else next week.

And the getting is actually good now, as exemplified by a large bowl of **rare-steak pho** ($7.75) that I grab to-go. Back at the office, a slice through the plastic wrap lets loose a tantalizing aromatic cloud laced with anise; my dining mate channels mulled cider notes. We both sip and slurp with contentment — green onions, basil and cilantro leaves, bean sprouts, and rice noodles intermixed with slivers of the chewy beef. We crave jalapeño and more lime, plus additional hot sauce, a shortcoming of takeout. And as always, I could do without the MSG, but it is surprisingly fulfilling pho overall. *— **Matthew Schniper***

Boulevard Brewing Company

2501 Southwest Blvd., Kansas City, Mo., boulevard.com

Boulevard beers seem to be earning more and more shelf space in area liquor stores, and after trying my first sips of **Tank 7 Farmhouse Ale** (around $12/four 12-ounce bottles) I understand why. This one's a juggernaut of goodness, easily accessible with a light body, mid-level hops and all the best aspects of a yeasty Belgian saison. As quaint as the image of a farmhouse is, so too is the pleasing nature of this beer.

It's polling with a 91 on BeerAdvocate and 99 on RateBeer, with an 8.5 ABV kick. Descriptions of a fruity nose and grapefruit up-front ring true, as does a fairly dry finish that had a fellow drinker likening it to white wine, but I don't pick up any of the described pepper or spice. No matter, because I love it anyway, kind of like the brewhouse's living roof and zero-landfill practices. Go for the four-pack over the 750-ml bombers, which run around $9, meaning more price per ounce. *— **Matthew Schniper***

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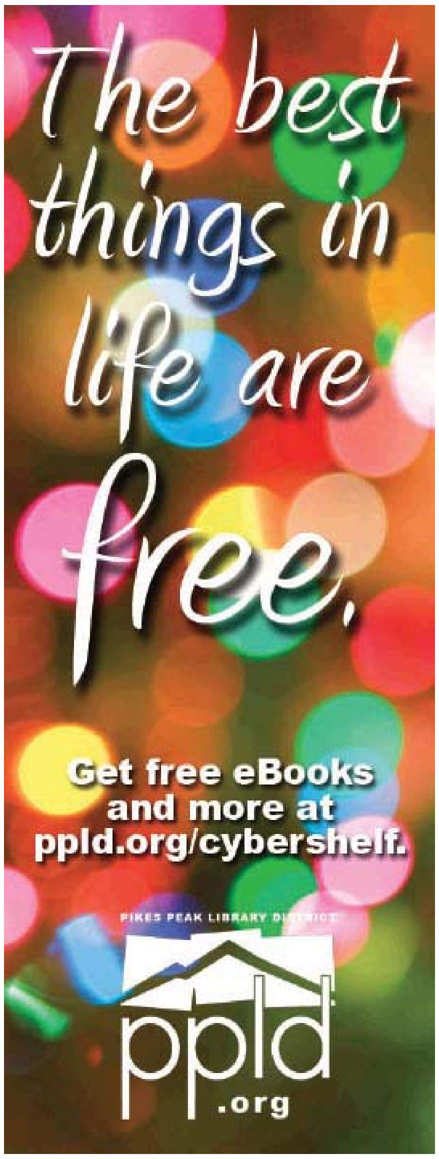

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Film

Behind the screams

Hitchcock (PG-13)

By Jonathan Kiefer

In 1960, American movies couldn't even show a toilet being flushed. You can imagine how they dealt with sex and violence. Or you can remember, even if you weren't yet alive then, because you remember that things changed that year with Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho.*

Anthony Hopkins dons a fat suit as horror mastermind Alfred Hitchcock. But the tribute lacks the legacy's luster.

How they changed is of little concern to *Hitchcock*, another defanged Hollywood history done in the biopic-snapshot style (see also *My Week With Marilyn*) and complete with voguish prosthetic distraction — this time in the fat-suited form of Anthony Hopkins, rolling suspenselessly along as the master of suspense. As Janet Leigh, Scarlett Johansson leads with her cheekbones and remains ever gracious.

Perhaps afraid of appealing only to a rarefied film-wonk crowd, director Sacha Gervasi settles very early into broad, easy strokes. The result is companionable but eventually sort of irritating, like a good friend with a bad habit of pantomimed stabbings and a cappella renditions of Bernard Herrmann's violins. Reportedly and demonstrably Gervasi was prevented by copyright restrictions from using any actual *Psycho* images or direct re-creations thereof. Bravely he went ahead anyway, heeding if not exactly living up to the master's example. Worried about advancing age and declining reputation, this Hitch bucks all career advice and stakes his house on a self-financed adaptation of Robert Bloch's novel, which in turn derives from the true story of Wisconsin serial killer Ed Gein, who appears to the director in a few cheesy and ill-advised dream sequences.

"But what if someone really good made a horror picture?" Hitch has cause to ask his wife, unsung collaborator and damage controller Alma Reville, played here with poised enjoyment by Helen Mirren. The answer is that it would alter the course of the genre.

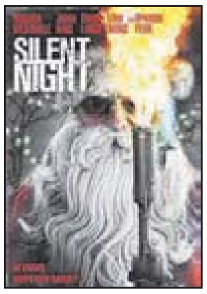
Puffing up its behind-every-great-man mythology, which is at least good and righteous and quite true in this case, *Hitchcock* strikes an unconvincing, unilluminating pose of feminism. While her husband paws at his pile of blonde women's headshots or peeps like Norman Bates at his leading lady through a hole in her dressing room wall, Alma merely negotiates the flirtatious attention of a less famous but more romantically inclined colleague (Danny Huston). That leaves us waiting around while the Hitchcocks endure these blatantly screenwriterly obstacles to marital and creative fulfillment.

More promisingly, as Leigh guides her co-star Vera Miles (Jessica Biel) through the minefield of their director's neurotic misogyny, with both ladies looking splendid in period costumes, *Hitchcock* briefly begins to feel like an episode of *Mad Men*. Meanwhile James D'Arcy does a fine impression of Anthony Perkins, but the film doesn't seem to need him. Shortchanged here, Perkins was utterly crucial to *Psycho*, whose script had been tailored to him, and something's wrong if that strikes Gervasi as an inconvenient truth.

Adapted by John J. McLaughlin from Stephen Rebello's book *Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of Psycho*, Gervasi's film maintains a chastely mischievous tone, inadvertently making clear that nobody but Hitchcock ever could really nail that tone. This is fertile material, all right, but not for a feel-good movie, though we do behold the tidy arc of an artist's anguish redeemed: He goes from helplessly pigging out on canned foie gras to infusing the shower scene with his own murderous fury to cueing audience screams like a triumphant conductor. Masterfully, he did actually get *Psycho* made, and we're all the richer for it.

— scene@csindy.com

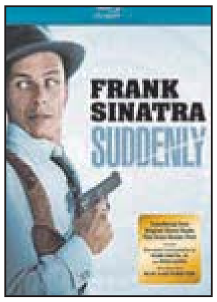
CineFiles



Silent Night (R)

Anchor Bay Home Entertainment

Almost 30 years ago, one of the most controversial horror films of all time — the Xmas slasher flick *Silent Night, Deadly Night* — was released. It's the heartwarming story of a young boy who sees his parents brutally murdered on the side of the road by a derelict Santa and, years later, after being forced to dress as Kris Kringle, snaps and goes on a holiday-themed killing spree. Nowadays, for better or worse, this idea is no longer big news, so what better time to give the classic a slick remake? *Silent Night* is a real stocking-stuffer for horror fans, taking the basic idea of the original and adding flame-throwers and other delightful methods of terror to the proceedings, plus talents like Jaime King, Malcolm McDowell and Donal Logue. To coincide with this remake's release, Anchor Bay has re-released the original, and its even goofier sequel, on a two-fer disc that also makes a great reason for the season. ***— Louis Fowler***



Suddenly (NR) (Blu-ray)

Image Entertainment

Listen up, ya big galoot! Pipe down and get your grubby mitts on *Suddenly*, the classic 1954 Frank Sinatra-starring thriller, remastered and restored on Blu-ray. In the sleepy burg of Suddenly, the police are on standby as a telegram informs them that the President is going to pass through town. Meanwhile, psychotic war vet Sinatra and his equally shaky pals invade the home of an archetypical 1950s atomic family (complete with a rapscallious little boy named Pidge) because it's the perfect vantage point for an assassination attempt. Fraught with incredible tension, constant intrigue and a hilarious overuse of 1950s slang and mannerisms, *Suddenly* is a great thriller right up until the clever conclusion. No character is safe, and the anti-war posturing (and almost anti-gun, until the very end) was a very ballsy move that I'm surprised an anti-pinko like Sinatra would have even approved. But everyone's gotta start somewhere, pallie! ***— Louis Fowler***

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Anna Karenina (R)	💿	💿	🍿	🍿
Deadfall (R)	🦃	💿	💿	💎
Hitchcock (PG-13)	💿	🍿	🍿	💿
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)	💿	💿	🍿	💿
Killing Them Softly (R)	💿	🍿	💎	🍿

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Film

Epic flail

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13)

By Scott Renshaw

"All good stories deserve embellishment," says the wizard Gandalf (Ian McKellen) to Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) in *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey.* And he says it with a twinkle, as though he somehow knew it would wind up being quoted back by snarky critics who wouldn't be able to resist.

Yes, we're all excited to return to Middle Earth with director Peter Jackson and talents like Martin Freeman (above), but some plot focus would be nice.

After all, the "embellishment" has been the focus of attention where *The Hobbit* has been concerned, from the expansion of J.R.R. Tolkien's pre-*Lord of the Rings* book first to two movies and then to three, to the decision to shoot the movies in a new 48-frames-per-second format. Where you might expect simple excitement about the return of director Peter Jackson to Middle Earth after his wildly successful, Oscar-winning *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, instead the chatter has been about how hard this whole project seems to be working to live up to mammoth expectations. George Lucas might very well nod in wry understanding.

So it's immediately concerning that *An Unexpected Journey* opens with a framing sequence involving the elderly Bilbo (Ian Holm) and Frodo (Elijah Wood) in advance of the birthday party featured in *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Bilbo is working on the memoir of his own adventure 60 years earlier — when Gandalf recruited him to join a company of dwarves-in-exile, led by their leader Thorin (Richard Armitage), to recapture their home city from a dragon — but that prologue feels designed almost entirely to remind you of this movie's lineage. Where we're going begins to feel less important than where we've been.

That sense continues through many of the other familiar faces from *The Lord of the Rings* films who show up for cameos, most notably Elrond (Hugo Weaving), Galadriel (Cate Blanchett) and Saruman (Christopher Lee). They join Gandalf for a conference in the elf city of Rivendell to discuss how this isn't all just about going off to fight a dragon, but is somehow connected to the creeping threat of Sauron, talked about here in ominous He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named tones. Something striking at the very balance of good and evil awaits — you know, something that's going to happen in those other movies.

The most notable exception among the awkwardly included established characters is the tragic Gollum, once again portrayed by motion-capture genius Andy Serkis. Bilbo's encounter with Gollum is a crucial one that actually comes from Tolkien's book — it's the means by which Bilbo comes to acquire the One Ring — and Jackson smartly allows Serkis' performance, along with the satisfyingly fidgety work of Freeman as Bilbo, to stay front and center. It's a memorable scene not merely because it's a reminder of how astonishing Serkis was throughout *The Lord of the Rings*, but because it's almost relaxed in its mix of playfulness and creepiness.

Where we're going begins to feel less important than where we've been.

What becomes clear as *An Unexpected Journey* creeps through its 160 minutes is how unusual the tone of that scene is, because Jackson generally doesn't trust this movie to be just a rousing fantasy adventure. There are magnificent action sequences throughout the movie, from an encounter with a trio of trolls, to a war between walking mountains, to a dizzying underground confrontation between Bilbo's party and an army of goblins that's as well-crafted as anything in *The Lord of the Rings*. But that story also carried the weight of its world's fate, and rich material about the nature of heroism and heroic myths. The burden of Middle-Earth-shaking, character-defining consequence, plus a dwarf diaspora, rests awkwardly on the simple quest narrative of *The Hobbit*, like a wire hanger trying to support a full suit of armor.

Plenty of *The Hobbit*'s detractors are bound to focus on its sheer volume, and the notion that Jackson is pulling a stunt akin to fiddling with the margins and font size of a term paper to reach a pre-determined target length. And it's a fair criticism, especially when Bilbo's initial meeting with the dwarves turns into a feature-length farcical set piece all on its own. Yet while the pacing is occasionally poky, the same was true at times of *The Lord of the Rings*. The difference is that *The Lord of the Rings* was an epic; with *The Hobbit*, Peter Jackson is forcing it to become one. There's "embellishment," and then there's feeling so attached to this story's cinematic legacy that you can't focus on telling the tale that's right in front of you.

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AudioFile

Paint it *Grey*

Local recording engineer's remastering of Danger Mouse's famed mash-up goes viral

By Bill Forman

Sarah McCormick

John Stewart: From insomniac audio freak to Forbes.com interview subject in two days.

Long before *Glee* aired its unfortunate mash-up of Beyoncé's "Halo" and Katrina & the Waves' "Walking on Sunshine," there was *The Grey Album*. A completely unauthorized mix of the Beatles' *The White Album* and Jay-Z's *The Black Album*, the underground release gave birth to the whole mash-up movement while garnering unprecedented press for creator Brian Joseph Burton, better known as Danger Mouse.

Of course, that was nearly 10 years ago. So when local audio engineer John Stewart decided on a whim to stay up all night remastering *The Grey Album*, he had no idea that anything would come of it. But after posting the result on his Soundcloud page, he was amazed to watch it go viral and reach the point where, two days later, he'd been profiled on Forbes.com and written up by high-profile sites like Slate, NME and the Source.

> **'In all honesty, I still don't think it sounds that great.'**

Two weeks later, the 25-year-old Stewart is still trying to make sense of this latest development in what was already an unlikely career trajectory.

Raised in Lebanon, Tenn., a Nashville suburb that's not exactly an epicenter of hip-hop culture, Stewart says he would accompany his mom to the Kroger down the street so that he could pore over hip-hop mags like *XXL* and *The Source* while she was getting groceries.

After his family relocated to Colorado Springs, he graduated from District 20's Rampart High and enrolled in a Dallas recording school. It was there, he says, that a chance encounter with Kanye West backup singer Tony Williams led to Stewart engineering projects that would feature artists ranging from John Legend to Kanye himself.

Now back in the Springs, Stewart continues to work with national artists — he's just finished a new mixtape for former U-N-I emcee Yonas Michael — as he contemplates his next moves. In the following interview, he talks about his take on *The Grey Album* and what could possibly come of it.

***Indy*: I saw a post on Facebook the other day where someone said, "You have 99 problems, but needing a remastered version of *The Grey Album* ain't one." What *did* motivate you to undertake this project? Was it something you just did for yourself, or was it in the back of your mind that it could go viral?**

John Stewart: I had no idea. It was just kind of a project that I put together for myself, and I had no idea that people would care at all.

***Indy*: So if someone with no background in audio recording listened to the two versions back-to-back, what differences would they hear?**

JS: The moment that you hit play, on his version you hear the vinyl surface noise of the Beatles recordings. I mean, I have a huge vinyl collection, and I love hearing the scratches and little tics when you're listening to vinyl. But I *hate* hearing that in MP3 form. If I'm in my car, I don't want it to sound like I'm listening to vinyl.

So the first thing I did was to try to strip away a lot of that noise. Beyond that, I played with the high end to try to give a little more clarity to Jay-Z's vocals. And I also wanted to give more body to the low end. Back in the Beatles' day, they'd basically just have three room mics on the drum set. So to my ear, it was like, "Oh, I wish the kick drum just kicked more."

***Indy*: I know there's a tradition of unauthorized remixes, but doing an unauthorized *remastering* seems almost masochistic. It's not like there's much glamour in it.**

JS: Yeah, that's the crazy thing. I mean, I've always loved the project, and Danger Mouse was a genius to put it together in the first place. But I'm an *engineer*, I didn't create anything new. Honestly, it's like the same CD that people have had for almost a decade. I made it *sound* a little bit better. And I mean, in all honesty, I still don't think it sounds that great.

***Indy*: This does seem like something that would only appeal to a very niche community. So how did it go from there to Forbes?**

JS: I'm not sure. I wish I could replicate it. I'd do it all the time. I was just on my phone, retweeting the flood of tweets about it, and this e-mail showed up saying "Interview Request for John Stewart." And I was like, "Alright, someone wants to interview me, awesome!" And then I open it up and it says, "I'm a writer for Forbes.com." I was like, "Excuse me, what?" And we ended up talking for 25 minutes.

***Indy*: So at this point, what's the best thing you could imagine coming out of all the media attention you're getting?**

JS: Honestly, I really don't know what to expect. The biggest thing I could ask for would be the opportunity to work with great artists making great music. You know, in whatever capacity that's in. If it's someone local here, that's incredible, I would love to work with them. If Kanye calls me tomorrow and says, "Hey, we're going to Hawaii and I want you to be on board," then awesome. But, you know, I don't really expect that.

***Indy*: Have you paid your phone bill just in case?**

JS: Um, I haven't, actually. I got an e-mail from Verizon a few days ago. Yeah, I probably need to do that.

— bill@csindy.com

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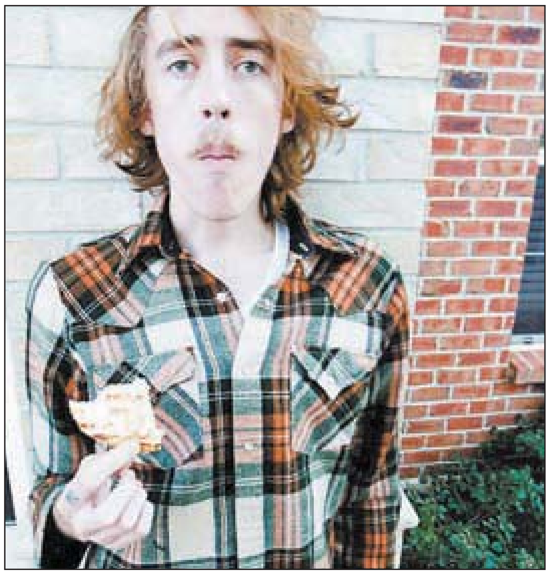
REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

It's never too early to start planning for the end of the world. And you'll be glad to know that, when the Mayan Calendar rings in the new armageddon on 12/21/12, there'll be a number of local **Ragnarok 'n' Roll** shows to send you out on a high note.



Good Eaton: The song-a-day marathon ends.

Let's begin with **Melting Temple**'s **"End of the World Meeting"** at Zodiac. "We invite you to spend your final hours with us," says the show invite, which features a seasonally appropriate image of cult leader **Jim Jones** as well as the slogan "Drink the Kool-Aid."

When I point out to Melting Temple bassist **Gabe from the Future** that it was actually spiked Flavor Aid that sent Jonestown disciples to their demise, he is typically nonplussed. "Well, we are gonna have Kool-Aid at the Zodiac," says Gabe. "It will be KILLER."

Sharing the bill with Melting Temple will be the beautiful noise of **Mobdividual** and the newish garage-psych band **Drug Flowers**, as well as **Algodon**, a **Jesse Cotton Stone** side-project that finds the Denver emigre sounding a lot more **Nine Inch Nails**-influenced than he did back in his local blues prodigy days.

For those who can't wait until the midnight hour to have their faces melted, there's **"The Last Headbang"** at Manitou's Venue 515, featuring thrash metallions **Another Shade of Hate** and **Pain Machine** as well as **InElements**, whom we already raved about in last week's column. No word on whether there'll be sickeningly sweet powdered beverages, but there will be beer and wine, so that's something.

If all that doesn't satiate your Mayan death wish, there's also the **"End of the World Party"** at McCabe's, featuring **Danny & the Fried Shrimp**, whose frontman hails from New Orleans, so I guess the band name isn't as bad as it sounds. In addition to "bluesy, jazzy, rock 'n roll" originals, the group will indulge in British invasion hits and '70s folk-rock.

There'll be a number of Ragnarok 'n' Roll shows to satiate your Mayan death-wish next week.

They'll also be doing what could be their last performance of **Dr. Hook**'s "Cover of the Rolling Stone," during which we're told they routinely change it to "Cover of the Independent and the Rolling Stone." So there's that, too.

"The world was supposed to end quite a few times and it's a great excuse to party hardy," insists the band's frontman. "We're going to be playing from 5:30 to well past midnight to prove the Mayans wrong."

Actually, all this apocalyptic jesting is starting to make me wonder how we're all gonna feel if and when those ancient Mayans get the last laugh. Plus, there's the time zone thing. Do we really think the Mayans were talking about midnight Mountain Time? Folks might want to move these shows up a day.

Meanwhile, getting back to this whole "cover of the Independent and the Rolling Stone" thing, don't forget this week's CD release show featuring last week's cover story subject **Grant Sabin**. The Friday night concert will find his band sharing the stage at Stargazers with **Chimney Choir** and the **Haunted Windchimes**.

For those with somewhat more avant-garde dispositions, Indy Music Awards winner **Animus Invidious** is releasing a free three-song EP today, featuring "wacky tasty fat psychedelic thoughtful grooves, carefully mixed and professionally mastered for your listening/dancing/getting-nasty pleasure." It's called *The Adventure of Applesauce Man*, and there's also a severely limited-edition of a dozen "handmade" physical CDs.

You can find downloads and info at his ReverbNation site and also catch Animus live at the **Ancient Mariner** this Friday. He'll be sharing the bill with a *severely* augmented version of the **Charlie Milo Trio**, featuring special guests **Joshua Duke** on hand drums, **Jim Jacobs** on guitar, saxophonists **Amanda Salazar** and **Benito Vena**, and **Hopeful Heroines' Harriett Landrum** on violin. It's being billed as an "all-improv" show, so if you hear anything that sounds remotely rehearsed, be sure to call them on it.

And finally, hats off to **Briffaut** frontman **Daniel James Eaton**, who took on the project of posting a song every day for a full year and will finally be completing the task on Dec. 15. Rather than let 366 perfectly good songs linger in semi-obscurity, he's re-recording the best of the lot as an album to be produced by **El Toro de la Muerte's Ryan Spradlin** at the band's new **ALLNEONLIKE STUDIO**. (Which, Ryan points out, should be printed in all-caps "like it's being screamed over the Internet.")

Check out **"Briffaut's Year of Songs on Vinyl"** on Kickstarter for a host of pledge incentives, including an exclusive Xmas release. And while you're at it, pay a visit to his Soundcloud page, where you can experience the entirety of Daniel James Eaton's ethereal output.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, THROUGH TUESDAY, DEC. 18

Wednesday 12/12

Club Q, *Open Mic Night, 10 p.m.*
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *Bruce Hayes (bluegrass),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *West Side Wednesdays, with Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Rawbert & I (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *Hazel Miller & Dotsero (jazz),* 7:30 p.m., $17-$22.
Twisted Knickers, *Bluegrass Jam with Banjo Bill (bluegrass),* 7 p.m.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 12/13

Adam's, *Eric Earley (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band, 9 p.m.*
Bloom's Mill Hill, *Michael Smith and Oly (country),* 7 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Mike Nelson (blues),* 6 p.m.
Holy Cow, *Jay-Koh (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *DeeJayBee & Tony G (dance),* 8 p.m., *Cari Dell (blues),* 8 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Malcolm Marchman Holiday Pianist (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Jim Adam, John Stilwagen (jazz),* 7:15 p.m.
Pale Horse, *Ladies Night, feat. DJ Fade (dance),* 9 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rasta King, *Robby Red Locks & the*

VENUE

DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Forest Chapel, 14190 Black Forest Road, 495-2420
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Bloom's Mill Hill Saloon, 1668 S. 21st St., 632-6932
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Copperhead Road, 3330 N. Academy Blvd., 596-9151
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Dale Street Café, 115 E. Dale St., 578-9898
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Holy Cow Pub & Grill, 5885 Stetson Hills Blvd., 465-1704
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Jives Coffee Lounge, 16 Colbrunn Court, 210-7650
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
Keg Lounge, 730 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-9531
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Lounge in the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Marika's Coffeehouse, 739 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4438
McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
moZaic, 443 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-1800
Overtime Sports Bar & Grill, 2809 Dublin Blvd., 531-6032
Pale Horse Bar and Lounge, 204 N. Union Blvd., 465-2005
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo,

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

Reggae Time Machine (world), 7 p.m.

Raven's Nest, *Brian Parton (Americana)*, 5 p.m.

Rico's, *Susan Rissan and Tribe (jazz)*, 7 p.m.

SouthSide Johnny's, *Fishtank Piranhas (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Stargazers, *Corey Smith (country)*, 7 p.m., $10.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Karson with a "K" (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Friday 12/14

Adam's, *Eric Earley (acoustic)*, 9 a.m.

Ancient Mariner, *Charlie Milo Trio, with Animus Invidious (dance)*, 8 p.m.

Benny's, *40 oz. Freedom Fighters (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Black Forest Chapel, *A Christmas Concert and Holiday Potluck, with Adam Guardino, Phil Volan and Jolene Bell, the Sister Brothers (acoustic)*, 6 p.m., $4-$7.

Black Sheep, *Texas Hippie Coalition, Hillbilly Herald, Pain Machine (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $12-$15.

Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz)*, 7 p.m.

Cleats, *Nuthin Fancy (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Crystola Roadhouse, *Jim Adam and John Stilwagen (blues)*, 8 p.m.

Cucuru Gallery Café, *Rocky Gene Wallace and Brotherhood (blues)*, 7 p.m.

Dale Street Café, *John Wise (blues)*, 6 p.m.

Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world)*, 7 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *JD Kelly (rock/pop)*, 9:30 p.m.

Jives, *Ben Knighten (acoustic)*, 7:30 p.m.

Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B)*, 9 p.m.

Keg Lounge, *HighWheeler (Americana)*, 8 p.m.

McCabe's, *Lissa Hanner and Super Chuck (rock/pop)*, 6 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *DeeJayBee (dance)*, 8 p.m., *Gumbo Le Funque* (R&B), 9 p.m.

MoodSwings, *New Vintage Jazz (jazz)*, 8 p.m., $5-$10.

moZaic, *Michelle Edwards (world)*, 5 p.m.

Overtime, *6035 (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.

Rawkus, *Impulse Friday, feat. Jantsen, DirtMonkey, SubCirkut, Evasive (dance)*, 8 p.m., $5-$10.

Red Martini, *Dave Migliaccio (jazz)*, 8 p.m.

Rico's, *Adam Gang Jazz Trio (jazz)*, 7:30 p.m.

Ritz, *Underground Dance Theory (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Russ' Place, *Dave German (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

SouthSide Johnny's, *AOA 600 (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Stargazers, *Anthromusicology CD Release Show Celebration, with Grant Sabin, The Haunted Windchimes, Chimney Choir (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $20, including CD.

Sunshine Studios, *Never So Right, December Downfall, Two Fisted Tango (rock/pop)*, 6:30 p.m., $12.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Thirsty Parrot, *DJ Manyacal (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Townhouse, *The Freight (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Triple Nickel, *The Yawpers (Americana)*, 9 p.m.

Urban Steam, *Mango Fan Django (jazz)*, 7 p.m.

V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Wooglin's, *Second Friday at Wooglins (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Wyatt's, *Tyler Halsey (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Zodiac, *Mark's Midnight Carnival Show, Sonic Soma, In the Whale (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 12/15

Benny's, *Roots and Rhythm (R&B)*, 9 p.m.

Black Sheep, *Desert Noises, The Great Hotel Fire, Bridges Will Break (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m., $7.

Cleats, *Nuthin Fancy (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Copperhead Road, *6035 (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Crystola Roadhouse, *Bob Margolin, The Delta Sonics (blues)*, 8 p.m.

Dale Street Café, *John Wise (blues)*, 6 p.m.

Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz)*, 6 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *Bobby Doran (acoustic)*, 9:30 p.m.

Lounge in the Village, *West Side Rhythm Kings (blues)*, 8 p.m., *Open Jam with West Side Rhythm Kings (acoustic)*, 11 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *Lincoln with DJ Tony G (dance)*, 9 p.m., *GOYA (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

MoodSwings, *Brady O' Band (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $5-$10.

Motif, *Steve Langemo Jazz Trio (jazz)*, 7:45 p.m.

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz)*, 6:30 p.m.

Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *Brian Parton (rock/pop)*, 7 p.m.

Rawkus, *Latigo (country)*, 8 p.m., $5.

Rico's, *MoonHoney (folk)*, 7:30 p.m.

Ritz, *Underground Dance Theory (rock/pop)*, 8 p.m.

Silver Tongue Devil, *White Water Ramble (bluegrass)*, 8 p.m.

Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

SouthSide Johnny's, *Suga Bear & The Show Time Band (R&B)*, 9:30 p.m.

Stargazers, *"The Acoustic Ninja" Trace Bundy & Josh Garrels (acoustic)*, 8 p.m., $18-$23.

Sunshine Studios, *The Cannibal Creeps, Five Hour Fire, What's Been Used (metal)*, 6:30 p.m., $12.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Townhouse, *Jamaican Eclipse (world)*, 8 p.m.

Triple Nickel, *Saus, Among the Land of the Blind, The Brown Noise (rock/pop)*, 9 p.m.

Ute Inn, *Dave German (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.

V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Sunday 12/16

Crystola Roadhouse, *Crystola All-stars Open Mic (acoustic)*, 3 p.m.

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world)*, 3 p.m.

The Loft, *Jonah Werner (folk)*, 7 p.m., $10-$15.

Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop)*, 3 p.m.

Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop)*, 8:30 p.m.

Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance)*, 9:30 p.m.

Urban Steam, *Acoustic Open Mic (acoustic)*, 1 p.m.

Monday 12/17

Crystola Roadhouse, *Rosalie DuPree (blues)*, 5 p.m.

Marika's, *The South Path Ramblers (rock/pop)*, 6:30 p.m.

Shovelhead, *Shovelhead Blues Jam (blues)*, 7 p.m.

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone, 7 p.m.*

Tuesday 12/18

Adam's, *Wayne Hammerstadt (acoustic)*, 6:30 p.m.

Meadow Muffins, *John Austin Band (blues)*, 7 p.m.

Rudiments, *Open Mic (acoustic)*, 7 p.m.

Thirsty's, *Jam Night (acoustic)*, 8 p.m.

Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic)*, 9 p.m.

Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Raid (dance)*, 9 p.m.

Trace Bundy plays Stargazers Theatre Dec. 15.

BigGigs

Corey Smith, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 13 • ***Anthromusicology* CD Release Show Celebration, with Grant Sabin, The Haunted Windchimes, Chimney Choir**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 14 • **Texas Hippie Coalition**, Black Sheep, Dec. 14 • **"The Acoustic Ninja" Trace Bundy & Josh Garrels**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 15 • **Bob Margolin, The Delta Sonics**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Dec. 15 • **Craig Morgan & Phil Vassar**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 15 • **Boys Noize Live**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 18 • **Clutch, Texas Hippie Coalition**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 21 • **Krizz Kaliko**, Black Sheep, Dec. 21 • **The Beach Boys**, Pikes Peak Center, Dec. 28 • **Jimmy Hall, Kate Moss**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Dec. 28 • **Elephant Revival**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Dec. 28-29 • **STS9**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Dec. 29-31 • **John Gorka**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Jan. 4 • **Father John Misty**, Black Sheep, Jan. 5 • **Reverend Horton Heat**, Black Sheep, Jan. 18 • **Blackberry Smoke**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Jan. 19

719/565-6655

Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773

Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098

Rasta King Seafood Bar and Grill, 675 S. Circle Drive, 344-4447

Raven's Nest Coffee, 330 N. Institute St., 632-3433

Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000

Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522

Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927

Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549

Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484

Rudiments Café, 5863 Palmer Park Blvd., 434-5999

Russ' Place, 52 County Road 5, Divide, 687-5599

Shovelhead Saloon, 4130 U.S. Hwy. 85, 392-2665

The Silver Tongue Devil Saloon, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 684-2555

The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815

Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222

SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487

Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200

Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921

Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772

Thirsty Parrot, 32 S. Tejon St., 884-1094

Thirsty's Tavern, 2028 Sheldon Ave., 444-8515

Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566

Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085

Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555

Twisted Knickers Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 633-1400

Urban Steam Coffee Bar, 1025 S. Sierra Madre St., 473-7832

Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465

V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599

Wooglin's Deli & Café, 823 N. Tejon St., 578-9443

Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100

Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

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THE DIRTY HEADS, SHINY TOY GUNS
MAR 9 (ON SALE FRI)
AS I LAY DYING, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
APR 3 & APR 4 (ON SALE FRI)

Fri, Dec. 14th - 8:00pm
TREE OF WOE
FEAT: GRINDSCAPE, PAIN MACHINE

Sat, Dec. 15th - 8:00pm
DESERT NOISES
FEATURING: THE GREAT HOTEL FIRE, BRIDGES WILL BREAK, KNIGHT IN COLORS

Fri, Dec. 21st - 8:00pm
KRIZZ KALIKO
FEATURING: GRITTY MUSICK, SLO PAIN, 17 ENTS, HEX RATED

Sat, Dec 22nd - 8:00pm
BKG PRESENTS THE 4TH ANNUAL "RAP PRESENTS"
BLACK PEGASUS
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Fri, Dec. 28th - 7:30pm
THE MYTH OF MODERN MEDICINE
FEAT: LEFTMORE, DECEMBER DOWNFALL, AMERICAN MOURNING

Sat, Dec. 29th - 7:30pm
MIDGARD CD RELEASE SHOW!
MIDGARD
FEATURING: TRY REDEMPTION

Fri, Jan. 4th - 7:30pm
WHY THEY FIGHT
FEATURING: TAKE IT TO 88

Sat, Jan. 5th - 8:00pm
FATHER JOHN MISTY
FEATURING: MAGIC TRICK, EL TORO DE LA MUERTE

Fri, Jan. 18th - 8:00pm
REVEREND HORTON HEAT
FEATURING: RENO DIVORCE

Wed, Jan. 23rd - 7:00pm
TRIBAL SEEDS
FEATURING: STICK FIGURE, THE MAAD T-RAY, OFFBEAT REVOLUTION

Thu, Jan. 24th - 8:00pm
SEA WOLF
FEATURING: WE ARE NOT A GLUM LOT, HILLTOP MANSION (FORMERLY THE FLUMPS)

UPCOMING EVENTS
JAN 25 - CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR
JAN 28 - THE TOASTERS
JAN 30 - THE OVERSEER, FIT FOR A KING
JAN 31 - IRATION
FEB 1 - PENNYWISE
FEB 2 - KRADDY
FEB 3 - THE ROUGE
FEB 5 - HATEBREED
FEB 7 - THE GROWLERS
FEB 10 - EL TEN ELEVEN
FEB 22 - BALLYHOO!
MAR 19 - PAPER BIRD, HE'S MY BROTHER SHE'S MY SISTER
MAR 8 - CURRENT SWELL
MAR 9 - THE DIRTY HEADS, SHINY TOY GUNS
APR 3 & 4 - AS I LAY DYING, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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AudioFile

Fun. with Grammys

With a trifecta of top nominations, the 'We Are Young' hitmakers keep their momentum going

By Alan Sculley

Fun Boys Three: 'We just want to keep working hard and making good music.'

When he was asked to join the band Fun., Andrew Dost had a sense that the new group had serious potential. Dost had already served as a touring drummer for frontman Nate Ruess' previous band, the Format, and had huge respect for him, both personally and musically.

"Nate is just a fantastic guy and in addition to that, he's an amazing performer, an amazing frontman, and an amazing songwriter," says Dost, who has all the more reason to be amazed now that the indie-pop band has truly become THE breakout band of 2012.

Earlier this year, the group's "We Are Young" single — which features guest vocals from Janelle Monáe — shot to the top of *Billboard* magazine's Hot 100 singles chart. It would go on to hold that spot for six straight weeks, while the title song from the group's *Some Nights* album has proven to be a strong follow-up single and remains in the Top 10.

If all that weren't enough, the New York City-based group was nominated last week for Grammy Awards in all four top categories: Best New Artist, Song of the Year, Record of the Year, and Album of the Year.

Despite all the attention, Dost says the band has been keeping its eye on the task of being a touring band.

"I guess we're just kind of going about our business and trying to keep our heads down," he says. "We just want to keep working hard and making good music."

Indeed, the trio is experienced in the ways of the music world. Ruess' band the Format signed with Elektra Records in 2002, going on to release two full-length albums and several EPs. Guitarist Jack Antonoff's other band Steel Train, which is still together, released three albums and two EPs, while Dost's former band Anathallo had four albums and two EPs under its belt before breaking up in 2008.

When the Format came to a halt, Ruess wasted no time in enlisting Dost and Antonoff for his new project. *Aim & Ignite*, Fun.'s 2009 debut, showcased an obvious talent for smart and catchy power pop, while this year's sophomore album, *Some Nights*, embraces new influences with an assist from producer Jeff Bhasker of Kanye West and Drake fame.

The trio picked Bhasker to produce after a 2010 tour in which the group began falling for contemporary hip-hop and R&B in a big way.

"We had started listening to Drake, and I think we had always been fans of Kanye West," says Dost. "These guys are really pushing it forward."

In fact, Dost likens the impact of Kanye's album, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, to that of the Beach Boys *Pet Sounds*, which he first heard while in high school. "When you get inside a work of art like that," he says, "it really kind of changes you."

Orchestration, ornate instrumentation and electronic elements notwithstanding, Fun. is still a pop band with lots of guitar, big melodies, and plenty of energy. Synthesizers enrich the sound, with anthemic tunes like "All Alone" and the aforementioned "We Are Young" evoking the grand pop of Queen, complete with heavily layered vocal harmonies, soaring melodies and larger-than-life musical structures.

"We really wanted to do something that would last and be powerful," concludes Dost. "I hope we achieved that."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Fun., with Of Monsters and Men, Churchill

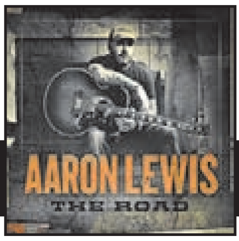
Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

1STBANK Center, 11450 Broomfield Lane, Broomfield

Sold out; tickets may be available from online sources.

SoundAdvice

GLOBAL WARMING
PITBULL



Pitbull

Global Warming

RCA Records

File next to: Rihanna, Black Eyed Peas

Pitbull's seventh album, *Global Warming*, doesn't refer to environmental destruction, but rather to the international influences he brags about bringing to his music. After all, this *is* Pitbull, a rapper whose mission seems little more than being the life of the party. He does blend styles (though not in any innovative ways or with the global reach he might suggest), but Pitbull's really bringing is upbeat fun. So we get "Feel This Moment" — a big synth-pop dance tune that samples A-ha's "Take On Me" and features a powerhouse guest vocal from Christina Aguilera — and "Have Some Fun," which borrows lyrics from the Sheryl Crow hit and sets them to a pulsing EDM/dubstep sound. Add more guest vocals from Jennifer Lopez and Danny Mercer, and *Global Warming* is a frothy concoction guaranteed to head up radio charts and rock the dance floors. — ***Alan Sculley***

Aaron Lewis

The Road

Blaster/Warner Nashville

File next to: Dierks Bentley, Waylon Jennings

It's pretty ironic that it took a guy from a hard rock band — Staind's Aaron Lewis, no less — to make one of this year's most old-school country albums. Songs like "75," "The Road" and "State Lines" take listeners back to the '70s when Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and George Jones were playing traditional country songs with a bit of edge and plenty of twang. Lewis isn't yet in a league with those greats, but he has more of a talent for country songwriting than his work in Staind would ever have suggested, and he probably won't want to quit his day job with Staind yet. But even when he moves closer to today's more pop-rock-inclined country, as on "Endless Summer" and "Forever," it works. So if the tensions that arose during the making of Staind's last album do bring that band to an end, at least Lewis has a viable plan B. — ***Alan Sculley***

Habib Koité & Eric Bibb

Brothers in Bamako

Stony Plain Records

File next to: King Sunny Ade, Paul Simon

Brothers in Bamako brings together acoustic blues/folk/gospel artist Eric Bibb and African musician Habib Koité, who became friends a decade ago while playing on the album *Mali to Memphis*. Standout tracks include "On My Way to Bamako," in which Bibb describes his anticipation for traveling to Africa to make the album. Koité takes the lead on songs like "L.A." and "Foro Bana," sung in his native tongue with a beauty that's altogether universal. And then there are the truly collaborative efforts such as "Tombouctou" and "We Don't Care," with traded vocals and seamlessly blended guitar parts that sound like instruments having a conversation of their own. Add in an inspired version of Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" (done starkly, with banjo, bass and sweet steel guitar) and this becomes one of the most intriguing albums of 2012. — ***Alan Sculley***

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Christmas Worship Guide

To advertise your worship services in the 12-19 Worship Guide, please contact your account representative at 577-4545 before 2pm on Friday, 12-14

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6:30 pm, December 24th

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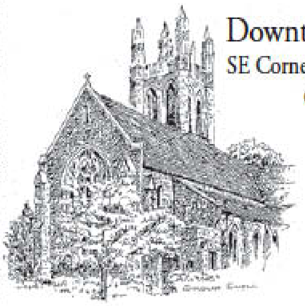
Christmas Eve Services:

Children's Pageant & Eucharist - 4:30 pm
Candlelight Choral Euchrist Services -
7:00 pm, Music starting at **6:30,** Rite II
11:00 pm, Music starting at **10:30,** Rite I

Both candlelight services will feature Mozart's Missa Brevis in D Major with string orchestra; anthems by Lindley, Willcocks and Adelmann; plus traditional hymns and carols.

Christmas Day Service

10:00 am - Eucharist with Carols



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8:20 & 9:45 a.m.
Sanctuary, Blended Style with Choir
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Fellowship Hall, Contemporary
11:10 a.m.
Sanctuary, Contemporary
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Listings

Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

Anti-Corporate Holidaze, an unveiling of art by Phil Lear, Lauren Potreiko, Seth Lockard, Lexi Harris and others, as well as music from the Hopeful Heroines, food, wine and more. Sabi, 330 N. Institute St., 471-4237, facebook.com/pages/sabi/126626702926.

Art in Storefronts, four installations at local empty storefronts: "Body Knowing Space Part 2" by Sarah Velez at 117 E. Bijou St.; "The Storefront Project" by Mary Vandezande at 121 E. Bijou St.; "Revival" by Amy Seltzer at 130 E. Pikes Peak Ave.; and "I Live in COS," by Austin Buck at 326 N. Tejon St. Through Dec. 31.

Art on the Streets, a year-long exhibit of sculpture vetted by local art patrons Jim Raughton and Kathy Loo. The 12 pieces are done by artists from Colorado and around the country. Go online for a map; through next summer. Downtown, various venues, downtown80903.com.

Big Picture Discussion Group, join others to talk about art and spirituality. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Public Free Day, free general admittance to the galleries and docent tours. Third Tuesday of every month, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

Wine and Art Saturdays, a weekly event for appreciation of creative endeavors, both high-culture and viticulture. Saturdays, 4-6 p.m. Hayden Hays Broadmoor Galleries, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com.

ArtExhibits

Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Under the Influence*, an exhibition of the watercolor and mixed-media work of Carol Naylor, Gayle Higgins and Jan Hunt-Dawson. Through Dec. 31.

Art Hardware, 402 S. Nevada Ave., 635-2348, scannonart.com. *Work by Shirley Cannon*. Through Dec. 30.

The Bridge Gallery, 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *The Bridge Market*, the group's "cash-and-carry" exhibit of small works, jewelry, pots and more. In the Commons Gallery, find photographs by Michael Cellan and Peter Marchand in *Passing Thru Time and Space*. Through Dec. 22.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Handmade Holiday*, a show and sale of hand-crafted artwork and crafts from locals, with live music, warm beverages and cookies and other holiday entertainment. Saturdays, Sundays through Dec. 25. *The Artist's Studio*, an exhibit centering on "Innovation, Ideas, Methods and Materials from Fine Art Adult Educators," featuring works from instructors at local studios, community colleges, universities, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and the Business of Art Center. Through Jan. 19. *BAC Annual Holiday Show*, a wide selection of works from BAC regulars in ceramics, painting, glass, prints and mixed media. Through Jan. 19. *Dave Wyzenbeek: Recent Works*, an exploration of faith, self and the subconscious in monotypes and drawings from the Denver artist. Through Jan. 19.

CC's Coburn Gallery, Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6606, theideaspace.com. *Laura Ben-Amots: Battle Portraits*, an updated version of Ben-Amots' powerful series of paintings based on interviews she held with wounded veterans. Through Dec. 18.

Cheyenne Mountain High School, 1200 Cresta Road, 475-6110. Faculty Exhibition, featuring two- and three-dimensional works from the arts faculty of Cheyenne Mountain School District 12. Through Dec. 21.

City Administration Building, 30 S. Nevada Ave., 385-5905, greatscenicphotos.com. *Nature Photography*, an exhibition of local nature scenes from photographer Ricardo Villa. Twenty percent of all sales go to benefit COPPeR.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Honoring a Legacy: Selections from the Taylor Museum Collection of Native American Works*, a selection of works by Plains tribes including: decorated clothing, shields, cradleboards and more. Many works will be on display for the very first time. *A Mural in the Making*, a look at the process — through drawings, pictures, video and more — that two artists, Eric Bransby and Trevor Thomas, went through to create the museum's new mural. Through Jan 6. *Floyd D. Tunson: Son of Pop*, a career-spanning exhibition of the works of longtime Palmer High School art instructor, and celebrated artist, Floyd Tunson. Through Jan 20.

Duck Hunting Clinic, a class for beginners from Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Tues., Dec. 18, 6 p.m. Free. Colorado Division of Wildlife Office, 4255 Sinton Road, wildlife.state.co.us/Pages/Home.aspx.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Commonwheel Artists Co-op Annual Holiday Market*, a show and sale of gift-able artwork by over 35 Colorado artists. Through Jan. 6.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Pikes Peak Watercolor Society*, an exhibition of works from the local organization. Through Jan. 8.

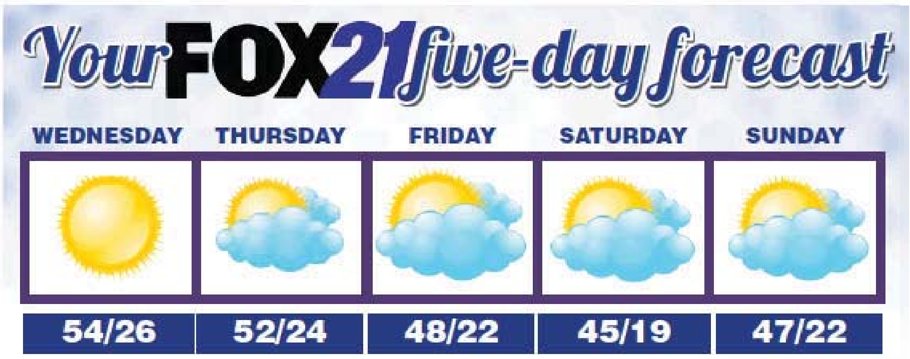
Cottonwood on Tejon, 214½ N. Tejon St., cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *Holiday Boutique*, an art show and sale, featuring pieces from Colorado artists, all under $100.

Coutura Design Inspirations, 6380 Corporate Center Circle, 636-3000, manitouspringsartscouncil.org. *Colors of Change*, an exhibit spanning many visual art media including painting, sculpture, graphic art and pottery, geared to engage and inspire. Through Feb. 28.

Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org. *A Cup & Bowl Christmas*, an exhibition of work from Linda Cates, Kuky Harrington and Maria Hughes.

Downtown Studio Gallery at Pikes Peak Community College, 100 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 502-4040, laura.ben-amots@ppcc.edu, ppcc.edu/departments/art/ppcc-art-gallery. *Symphony*, the winter student exhibition from the art department of Pikes Peak Community College. Through Dec. 14.

Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., gallery-113.com. *Art Gift Show*, a show and sale of hand-crafted



Your FOX21 five-day forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
54/26	52/24	48/22	45/19	47/22

works, including jewelry, photographs, prints, paintings and more. Through Dec. 25.

GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, galleryuccs.org. *Jay Shinn: Illuminated*, a solo show by Shinn, who works with paint, metal, light and neon to create works that "defy our notions of space and perception." Through Dec. 14.

Hayden Hays Broadmoor Galleries, 1 Lake Circle, 577-5744, haydenhaysgallery.com. *Colorado Artists*, a selection of new works from local artists. Through Dec. 31.

I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College, Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6066, theideaspace.com. *Eiko & Koma: Residue*, an installation created by this legendary Japanese dancing duo, who will present sculpture, video and sound works to "explore ideas of time and sensory experience." Through Dec. 18.

Mardosz Fine Art Gallery, 109 S. Corona St., mardoszfineart.com. *Miniatures Show*, a series of small paintings by Chuck Mardosz, Eric Michaels, Richard Dahlquist and Dean Mabe. Through Dec. 31.

Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org. *Chriszaihamankus*, a group celebration of the season, featuring works from Kat and Bob Tudor, Don Goede, Jeff Kallaus, Justin Kovach and others. Through Dec. 28.

Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 531-6333, ppld.org. *In Our Own Backyard: Remembering Historic Fires of the Pikes Peak Region*, an exhibition of photography looking at various destructive fires in the area. Find photos from Eric Wulfsberg, Tracey Goodale, Dan Shelley, and Warren and Linda Pearce, who lost their home in the Waldo Canyon Fire. Through Aug. 31.

Safron of Manitou Springs, 720 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5153. *Ever Afters*, an exhibition of art inspired by German folktales, by K8e Orr. Dec. 14 to Jan. 18. Opening reception, Fri., Dec. 14, 5 p.m.

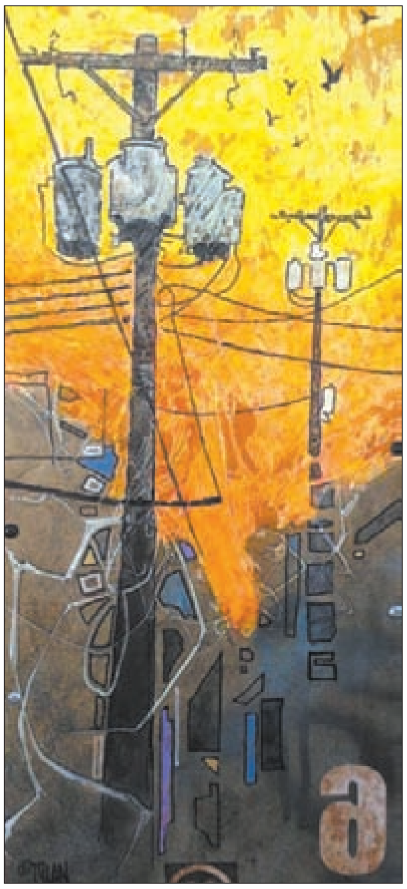
Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Own Your Own Art Show & Sale*, Sangre's annual art bonanza, with walls filled top to bottom with reasonably priced artwork for the holidays. Through Dec. 29.

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Momentum*, a solo show of new abstract paintings focused on meditative spaces, as well as a series "inspired by walking meditation labyrinths." Through Dec. 31.

Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com. *Not Your Grandma's Quilts*, an exhibition by Colorado Springs Fiber Artists, a collective whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional textile art in new and exciting directions. Through Jan 15.

Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., aafcsstudent@gmail.com, rmpbs.org/timgillcenter. *The Art of Design*, an exhibition of work from the local student chapter of the American Advertising Federation. Dec. 14 to Jan 31.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org. *TLCA Resident Artists Exhibition*. Through Jan 5.



PICK **Kreuser Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Iconic*, an exhibition of works by Tish Lacy Reed. Next door, in the AHA Gallery, find a show of paintings by Tylan Troyer.

Auditions&Entries

Colorado Humanities & Center for the Book is now accepting nominations for the 2013 Colorado Book Awards. Entries must be published in 2012 by a Colorado author, illustrator, editor, publisher or photographer. Entry deadline Dec. 31. More information and submission guidelines online. Through Dec. 31. $53. 303/894-7951 ext. 21, goff@coloradohumanities.org, coloradohumanities.org.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center seeks submissions of new scripts for its April program, *Rough Writers: A New Play Fest*. *Rough Writers* will feature new scripts based on three works of art in the museum. After the Fest, the winning play will be staged during the FAC Theatre Company's 2013-2014 season. More information available online. Submissions due: Feb. 14. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, roughwriters@csfineartscenter.org, csfineartscenter.org.

First Company seeks actors between 10 and 20 years old to audition at these specific times for its March production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Dec. 12, 7-9 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

Friends of the Pikes Peak Library District seeks community members eager to preserve and promote the Pikes Peak Library District by serving on the board of directors. Go online for more info and to download the application. 531-6333 x1008, friendsppld.org.

Letters About Literature, a national writing competition for students in grades 4-10, seeks submissions of letters written to authors, poets or playwrights (may be living or dead), explaining how the student's worldview has been transformed by the author's work. See website for guidelines; entry deadline is Jan. 11. 303/894-7951 ext. 21, goff@coloradohumanities.org, coloradohumanities.org.

Pikes Peak Opera League seeks applicants for its annual Young Voice Competition, which rewards the talent of singers age 16-19 in El Paso County with cash prizes and the chance to attend a master class. Entry deadline Feb. 8; visit website for application details. Through Feb. 8. 579-6999, pikespeakoperaleague.org.

The Sunrise Players invite actors to audition for their upcoming production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. See website for more info and to sign up. Thurs., Dec. 13, 6-8 p.m. Sunrise United Methodist Church, 2655 Briargate Blvd., sunriseplayers.com.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts seeks entries for its January exhibition entitled *From the Earth: Fine Art in Wood and Clay*. Entries due by Dec. 21. Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org.

Clubs&Organizations

Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, natalie@blackcatbooks.com, thebac.org.

Colorado Springs Scrabble Club, a club for Scrabble players of all abilities and experience levels. Bring equipment if you have it. Thursdays, 6-9 p.m. Jason's Deli, 7455 N. Academy Blvd., 332-5141, mem@rialto.org, jasonsdeli.com.

Colorado Springs Women's Express Network, a networking luncheon featuring a speaker designed to "inspire, motivate or empower women in business." RSVP no later than Tuesday prior to each event. Second Friday of every month, 11:15 a.m. $30. Garden of the Gods Club, 3320 Mesa Road, 338-0827, cswen.org.

The Eclectic Society of Lambent Anachronauts, a meeting of the steampunk-minded, held at various locations in Colorado Springs. Second Thursday of every month, 6 p.m. meetup.com/sfandf.

National Organization of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Colorado Springs, a support group for families of persons with mental illness. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. NAMI office, 510 E. Willamette Ave., 473-8477, namicoloradosprings.org.

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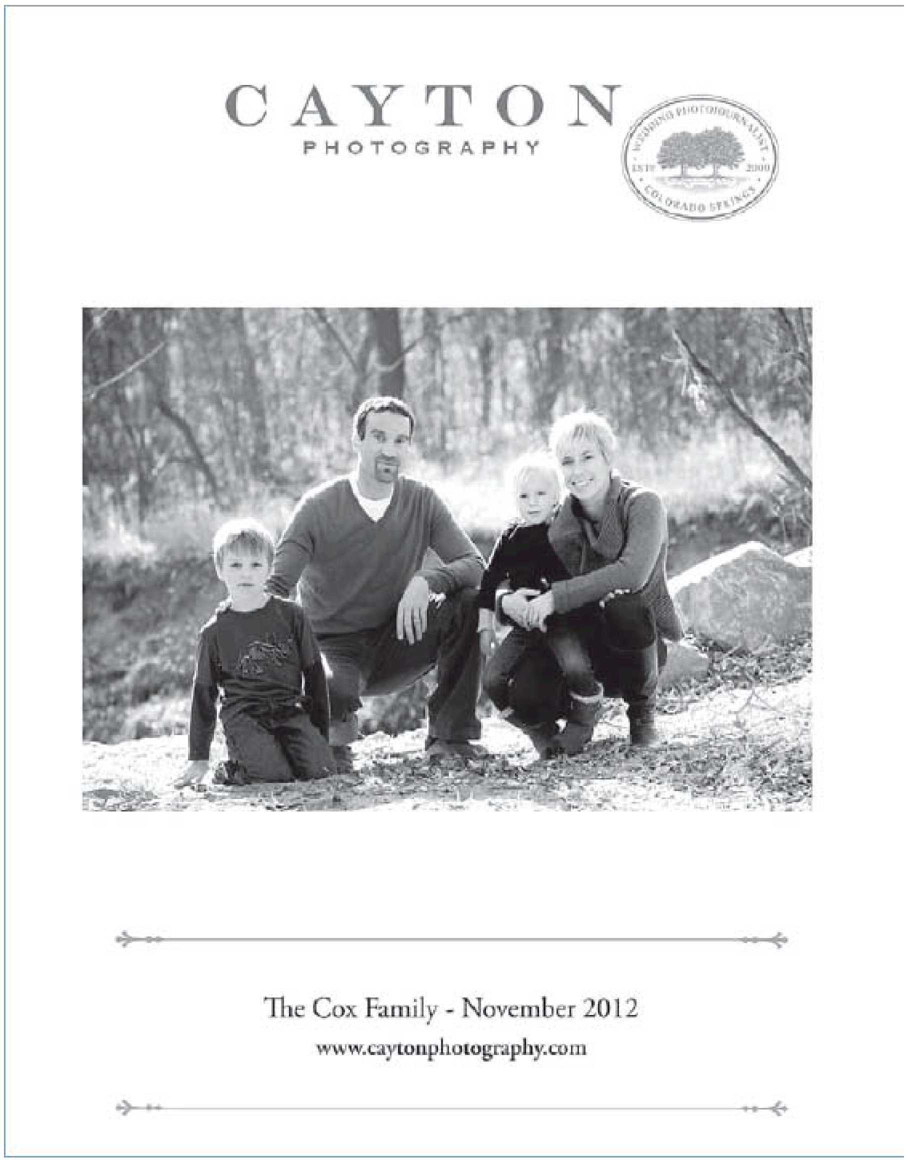

CAYTON PHOTOGRAPHY
The Cox Family - November 2012
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CONGRATULATIONS JUMPSTART WINNERS

Nonprofits have a good-natured competitive streak. The Give! Campaign creates multiple friendly rivalries to provide rallying points for our 58 participating nonprofits.

The KRCC-FM Jumpstart Competition rewards those non-profits that garner the largest number of unique donors during November, the first month of the two month *Indy* Give! campaign.

LOUD APPLAUSE FOR THIS YEAR'S EIGHT WINNING NONPROFITS:

Humane Society
Pikes Peak Region

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
CASA OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION

PIKES PEAK URBAN GARDENS

Kids on Bikes
Bringing joy one bike at a time

MAT!

PlayDate
Behavioral Interventions

Trails and Open Space Coalition

NAMI Colorado Springs
National Alliance on Mental Illness

THE WINNING NON-PROFITS OBTAIN A VARIETY OF BENEFITS, INCLUDING BEING FEATURED IN INTERVIEWS THIS WEEK ON KRCC (91.5 FM).

KRCC

GiVE!
LIVE HERE GIVE HERE

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INDYGIVE!COM

GIVE! IS A YEAR-END MULTIMEDIA AND GUERILLA MARKETING AND CAPACITY BUILDING CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO GENERATE FUNDS, VOLUNTEERS AND APPLAUSE FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS. POWERED BY THE *INDEPENDENT*, OUR 18 MEDIA PARTNERS AND MORE THAN 100 ADDITIONAL LOCAL ALLIES, OUR 2012 FUNDRAISING GOAL IS TO RAISE $800,000 WHEN THE CAMPAIGN ENDS AT MIDNIGHT ON DEC. 31. SO FAR WE HAVE RAISED OVER $325,000 VIA MORE THAN 4,000 DONATIONS. TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP, GO TO: INDYGIVE.COM

Stargazers
THEATRE & EVENT CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

2 NIGHTS !!! DEC. 28 &29
ADVANCE TICKETS $20

Stargazers
THEATRE & EVENT CENTER

ELEPHANT REVIVAL

12-12	Hazel Miller / Dotsero
12-13	Corey Smith - Country
12-14	Grant Sabin CD Release with The Haunted Windchimes
12-15	Trace Bundy - Acoustic Ninja with Josh Garrels
12-18	Jack Quinn's Running Club Holiday Party
12-31	New Years Eve/Martini Shot
1-4	John Gorka
1-5	Jake Loggins Band
1-5	Colorado You Got Talent
1-10	Thin Air Jazz - Big Band
1-12	Susan Rissman and Tribe
1-16	Chuck Pyle - Songwriters Circle
1-18	Whiskey Fingers Dance Party
1-19	Nina Story and Wendy Woo
1-26	Switchback / Celtic
2-16	Yesterday- Beatles Tribute
2-17	Michael Johnson Bluer Than Blue
2-23	ZOSO- Led Zeppelin Tribute

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Stammtisch — Colorado Springs, a German language conversation group held in Edelweiss' *Rathskeller*. Second Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Edelweiss, 34 E. Ramona Ave., 633-2220, facebook.com/events/217563261681961.

Comedy&Improv

Claude Stewart, Dec. 12-15. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

Comedy Hypnotist, an evening of mesmerizing entertainment from Matthew Fallon. Fri., Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Metropolis Supper Club, 1201 W. Colorado Ave., 285-7027, hypno-tainment.com.

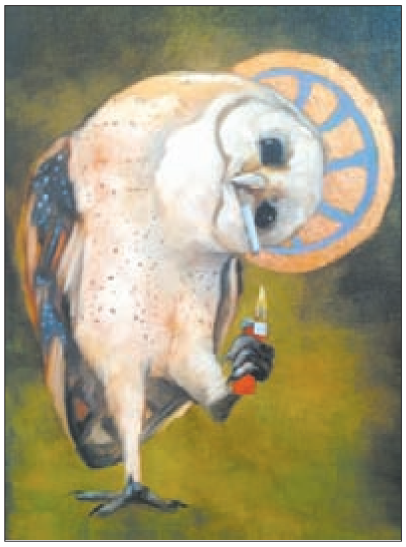
Improv Colorado, family-friendly comedy. Fri., Dec. 14, 7:37 p.m. $8-$10. Venue 515, 515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, improvcolorado.com.

Stick Horses in Pants, family-friendly comedy. Second Friday of every month, 8 p.m.; through May 10. $8-$10. The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 387-9911, facebook.com/thestickhorses.

Todd Johnson, an evening of down-home comedy from the Idaho native. Sat., Dec. 15, 8 p.m. $10-12. Damon Runyon Repertory Theatre, 611 N. Main St., Pueblo, 564-0579, runyontheater.org.

Concerts

Fall Concert, a performance from the Canyon Winds Concert Band. Thurs., Dec. 13, 7 p.m. Free. Trinity United Methodist Church, 701 N. 20th St.



PICK **Modbo,** 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Fifth Annual Small Works Show*, a show and sale of artwork no larger than 24 inches in every dimension, hung ceiling to floor in both the Modbo and S.P.Q.R. Through Jan. 4.

Friends House Concerts, Willy Porter, Sun., Feb. 10, 7 p.m. ($30); Seth Glier, Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m. ($20); Antje Duvekot, Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. ($25); Peter Mulvey, Sun., June 16, 7 p.m. ($25). Payment should be checks made out to Friends House Concerts. house-concerts.org.

DanceParties&Classes

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

Dance Into the Weekend Party, second and fourth Friday of every month, 8-11 p.m. $8. All About Dance, 2318 Vickers Drive, 598-0885 or 344-0764, allaboutdanceco.com.

Lunch Beat Colorado Springs, an international phenomenon makes its way to Colorado Springs. Dancing is obligatory, everyone's your partner, lunch and a DJ are provided, and you're prohibited from talking about your job. Wed., Dec. 12, noon to 1 p.m. GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, lunchbeatcos.eventbrite.com.

Scottish Country Dance, held on the lower level. Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. $5, first class free. International Dance Club, 2422 Busch Ave., 310-1784, internationaldanceclub.org.

Swing in the Springs, beginner and intermediate swing dance classes covering a variety of styles, followed by a free East Coast Swing class and a DJed dance. Casual dress, but no street shoes. Sundays, 7:30-10 p.m. $6. VFW Hall, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-4697, swinginthesprings.com.

Tango Lessons, offering lessons Tuesdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900, cucurugallerycafe.com.

DancePerformances

***National Ballet Denver: An Evening of Stars*,** a night of dance from this renowned troupe, which will perform selections from top ballets, including: *Le Corsaire*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle* and a world premiere featuring artistic directors Andrei Vassiliev and Cornell Callender. Sun., Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m. $28-$76. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

PICK **The Nutcracker 2012,** a locally produced professional production of the classic holiday ballet, starring Ivan Putrov and over 70 dancers from the Zamuel Ballet School. Sat., Dec. 15, 1 and 5 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 16, 1 p.m. $15. Mitchell High School, 1205 Potter Drive, 570-1440, zamuelballet.com.

Soul Mechanics, a "public jam session" from the local break-dancing crew. Mondays, Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Ormao Dance Company, 10 S. Spruce St., 471-9759, ormaodance.org.

Film

Cinemaholics, weekly film screenings with free popcorn and drink specials. Go online for updates. Tuesdays, 9-11:30 p.m. Free. Shuga's, 702 S. Cascade Ave., 328-1412, shugasblog.com.

Food & Drink

"All About Holiday Appetizers," a class with chef Amy Pontius focusing on appetizers like smoked salmon roulade. Wed., Dec. 12, 6-8 p.m. $30. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

Dinner With Our Chef in the Kitchen, a five-course dinner with wine prepared by chef Larissa Warner. Reservations required. Thursdays, 7 p.m. $35 per person. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

Geeks Who Drink Pub Quiz, Mondays, 8 p.m. Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766, jackquinnspub.com. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566, tonysdowntownbar.com. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. McCabe's Tavern, 520 S. Tejon St., 633-3300, mccabestavern.com.

Old Colorado City Wine-Bar Tour, a two-block tour of six OCC venues, with six wines paired with food. Thursdays, 5 p.m.; through Dec. 27. $48. shopoldcoloradocity.com.

PICK **Small-Batch Seasonal Release,** a release party featuring stouts, ales and barleywines, as well as the music of Amy Sue Hardy. Wed., Dec. 12, 6 p.m. Great Storm Brewing, 204 Mount View Lane, #3, 266-4200, greatstormbrewing.com.

Tuesday Night Karma Hour, a weekly happy hour with a twist: Each week Bristol will donate $1 to a charity from each pint sold. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Bristol Brewing Company, 1647 S. Tejon St., 633-2555, bristolbrewing.com.

GetInvolved

Annual CSPD Christmas Toy Drive, a drive for new, unwrapped toys for children, and gifts for teens 13 and up. Drop-offs at all Colorado Springs Police Department stations for donation to two local charities that give gifts to disadvantaged children. Christmas Unlimited needs toys, while Teens With Promise needs art supplies, clothing, gift cards and electronics. Through Dec. 25. teenswithpromise.com.

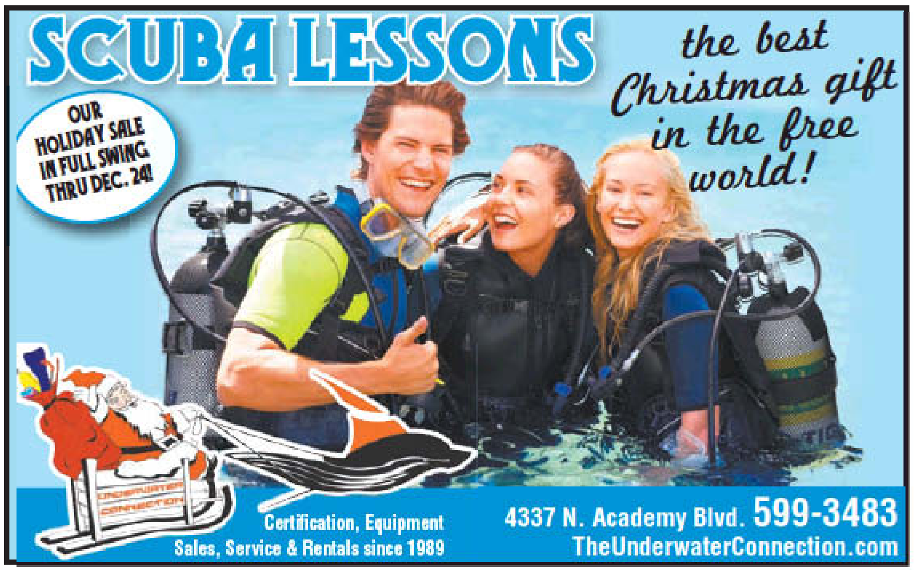
Health&Healing

Bhagavan Kirtan, an evening of sacred Kirtan chanting. Third Saturday of every month, 8-9:30 p.m. By donation. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Free Depression Support Groups, offering 10 peer-led support groups weekly, hosted by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Colorado Springs. Call or go online for more information. 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

GLBQTA Yoga, exercise in a safe and empowering environment friendly toward beginners. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Donations welcome. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130, info@yogajuan.com.

Mood Management Yoga Class, a session espe-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As our sales, print and web readership have grown due to both internal growth as well as recent acquisitions, we now need an inspiring, systematic, experienced hands-on leader to oversee all revenue generation at the *Colorado Springs Independent*. See **Employment** section or csindy.com/coloradosprings/jobopenings/page for full details.
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Karaoke w/ Hazel Humdinger
Friday 14th
Marks Midnight Carnival Show, In the Whale, Sonic Soma
Saturday 15th
Kid's Holiday Craft Party from 2-5p.
Come party with us Saturday night!
Sunday 16th
Hand Made Harlots Craft Fair 2-5pm.
Starting at 9pm - Those Kids, Radio, Dave Hunter
Monday 17th @ 7p Open Mic
Free drink for all performers
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Worship Goth Night
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Happy Hour MONDAY - SATURDAY 2PM - 7PM

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cially designed to maximize the uplifting, antidepressant qualities of yogic practice. Sun., Dec. 16, 12:30 p.m. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 719-306-5146, laura.fonner@gmail.com, cambioyoga.com.

Narcotics Anonymous, Second and Fourth Wednesday of every month, 6-7 p.m. The Pride Center, 2508 E. Bijou St.

PTSD Peer-Led Support Group, a support group for the spouses or significant others of veterans or current military personnel suffering with PTSD. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Veterans' Affairs Clinic, 25 N. Spruce St., #207, 685-1965.

PTSD Support Group, for soldiers experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, irritability, and/or hyper-vigilance. Meet with other soldiers who are experiencing the same symptoms. Facilitated by licensed therapist. Confidential. Covered by Tricare. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Soldier Life Center, 1767 S. Eighth St., #100, 471-0800, soldierlifecenter.com.

Rockies Counseling Center Therapy, offering weekly support groups covering grief and loss, Love and Logic parenting, and a Dialectic Behavioral Therapy Skills Group. Call for more info and to register. University of the Rockies, 555 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 442-0606, rockies.edu.

Yoga for People Living with HIV/AIDS, open to friends as well. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. free. Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, 1102 S. 21st St., 304-9130.

Yoga for Special Needs, Tuesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 375-1922, pkomarow@comcast.net.

Yoga for Women in Recovery, a friendly yoga class for all levels of yoga and those in 12-step programs. Please bring "water, a towel, a mat, a smile and an open heart." Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. $5 donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 686-8848, flowinghopeyoga.org.

Holiday

PICK **15th Annual Holiday Headframe Lighting,** a true frontier holiday tradition featuring the 1890s-vintage headframes of the mines around Cripple Creek and Victor, all lit up now through New Year's. Take a self-guided tour or visit either of the historic towns for a variety of seasonal activities — visit the website for tour map or e-mail for more information. Weekend nights only, weather permitting. Through Dec. 31. 689-2675, stcfg@victorcolorado.com, victorcolorado.com.

2012 Holiday Extravaganza Revue, a fun-filled, family-friendly musical and dramatic smorgasbord with Christmas as the theme and old-fashioned stagecraft as the vehicle. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; through Dec. 22. $9.50-29.50. Iron Springs Chateau, 444 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5104, pikes-peak.com/attraction/15.aspx.

Big Band Sunday, a performance of seasonal music and other favorites from the New Century Big Band. Sun., Dec. 16, 3-5 p.m. $8-$10. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 494-3746.

Bob Telmossé Christmas Giveaway, donate new toys, new or used bikes (kids' especially needed), canned veggies and fruit, turkeys, hams, coats, gloves and hats to this annual drive that helps bring the holidays to needy Pikes Peak region families. This year's giveaway will be held Dec. 21, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Freedom Financial Services Expo Center, 3650 N. Nevada Ave. Volunteers are also needed to sort donations. Go online for drop-off information and more. Donations accepted through Dec. 20. 646-0896, santa-bob.org.

A Christmas Carol, a puppet production of the classic Dickens tale, featuring all hand-made marionettes. Through Dec. 31. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

A Christmas Chaos, a satirical twist on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* that involves the audience in all the backstage drama and comedy of a community holiday theatre production. Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 15, 7 p.m. $5-10. Freedom Performing Arts Center, 1129 Ellis St., Fort Carson, 526-5366, bit.ly/QrkvnG.

Christmas Madrigal Dinner, a five-course meal with medieval holiday music, entertainment and dancing. Held Thursdays through Saturdays; reservations required. Through Dec. 22. $99. Glen Eyrie Conference Center, 3820 N. 30th St.

A Christmas Story, a live performance of the holiday film classic. Through Dec. 23. $15-$37. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, SaGaJi Theater, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5583, csfineartscenter.org.

Christmas Traditions Hike, a hike through the park with a discussion on world Christmas customs and traditions, followed by hot chocolate and cider and a craft for kids. Reservations required. Sat., Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m. $3-$4. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Colorado Vocal Arts Ensemble present Wintersong: A Celebration of the Season, Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., Dec. 16, 4:30 p.m. Free. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 720/290-3741, cvae.org.

A Cripple Creek Christmas Carol, a production of this original play that debuted at the Butte in 2002. The show will be followed by a Christmas olio. Through Dec. 30. $8.25-$13.25. Butte Theater, 139 E. Bennett Ave., Cripple Creek, buttetheater.com.

Electric Safari, a chance to appreciate the 1 million lights spread across the zoo, including over 40 animated sculptures. Zookeepers will be available, as well as select exhibits. Through Jan 1, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, 633-9925, cmzoo.org.

Holiday Concert, a performance from the 4th Infantry Division Band. Thurs., Dec. 13, 7 p.m. Fort Carson McMahon Theater, 1517 McDonald St., 526-1867, mwrfortcarson.com.

Holly & Ivy, the annual, seasonal concert from the United States Air Force Academy Band. Dec. 17-18, 7 p.m. Free, tickets required. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Las Posadas, Catholic Charities' popular Hispanic holiday celebration returns with traditional Mexican food, music and dancing. Event is free, but donations for Catholic Charities through the Give! campaign are gladly accepted. RSVP recommended. Fri., Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m. St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral, 22 W. Kiowa St., 866-6510, stmaryscathedral.4lpi.com.

The Madrigal Singers of Glen Eyrie, a performance of holiday music from the group. Saturdays, 1-3 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Terra Verde, 208 N. Tejon St., 444-8621, terraverdestyle.com.

***The Majesty & Glory of Christmas!* a concert performance from the church. Sun.,** Dec. 16, 5 p.m. $5-$10. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

Make Your Own Fresh Evergreen Centerpiece, a class on the technique of creating pine-cone, ribbon and greenery decorations for your holiday table or for gift giving. RSVP recommended. Sat., Dec. 15, 1-2 p.m. $20. Phelan Gardens, 4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 574-8058, phelangardens.com.

Nature Hike with Santa Claus, a chance to meet Santa, with a photo op, as well as an interactive reading of *The Night Before Christmas*, a hike through the area and refreshments. Reservations required. Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m. and Sun., Dec. 16, 10 a.m. $3-$4. Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, 520-6745, elpasocountyparks.com.

Nutcracker on Ice, a new production of the classic story featuring 65 skaters of all ages, sponsored by the Centennial Skating Club. Sat., Dec. 15, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. Sertich Ice Center, 1705 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-9591, centennialskatingclub.org, springsgov.com.

The Nutcracker, a production of this classic, featuring dancers, both youth and professional, from companies local and regional. Fri., Dec. 14, 5 and

How to Submit a Listing

Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

7:30 p.m. $16-$31. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Out With the Cold, In With the Hot, a holiday concert of old favorites and hilarious updated tunes from Out Loud! The Colorado Springs Men's Chorus, joined by the St. Vrain Ringers and Colorato. Fri., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Dec. 15, 12 and 7:30 p.m. $18. First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain St., 303/325-3959, rmarts.org.

Scars and Straw, a non-traditional take on the Christmas story that follows a Colorado Springs family's holiday trip to New York City. Dec. 12-16, 7 p.m. $5. Woodmen Valley Chapel, 290 E. Woodmen Road, 388-4917, woodmenvalley.org/scarsandstraw.

Summit by Candlelight, a performance by the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale's Summit Ensemble. Sat., Dec. 15, 7 p.m. $5-$10. Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave., 473-1807, kidssing.org.

Yule Love It Downtown, a holiday art and shopping crawl through Pueblo's Creative Corridor. Features live music, Riverwalk Boat Rides and painting and photography demonstrations as well as the work of local artists and artisans. Visit website for full list of events. Fridays, 5-8 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m.; through Dec. 22. Downtown Pueblo, Union Avenue, Pueblo, 719/242-6652, PuebloPAG.org.

Kids&Family

Camp Whiskers & Wags: Winter Edition, a day for kids to be kept busy with hands-on activities with various animals. Sat., Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m., and Dec. 27-29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. $30-$45. Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region, 610 Abbott Lane, 473-1741, hsppr.org.

The Christmas Mouse on Holiday, a new story in the Christmas Mouse series, in which a new mouse comes to the family home and turns traditions upside down. Through Dec. 22. $10. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Family Adventure Day, a creative day with the family, featuring hands-on activities, guided tours and more. Sat., Dec. 15, 10 a.m. Free. Bemis School of Art, 818 Pelham Place, 475-2444, csfineartscenter.org.

Lectures&Learning

"A Conversation with the Colorado Springs City Clerk," a talk with Sarah Johnson about her philosophies and practices. Thurs., Dec. 13, noon to 1 p.m. Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 531-6333, ppld.org.

Green Bag Lunch-n-Learn, a lunchtime program titled "12 Best Practices: Roadmap to a Solar Friendly Community." Wed., Dec. 12, 12:11-12:49 p.m. City Administration Building, 30 S. Nevada Ave., 385-2746, cmccausland@springsgov.com, ccb@ci.colospgs.co.us.

Rousseau Tercentenary Conference, a series of free lectures honoring the 300th anniversary of his birth and the 250th anniversary of the publication of *Emile*. Topics include Rousseau's enduring impact, Rousseau and the law, and more. Dec. 13-14. Colorado College, 14 E. Cache La Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradocollege.edu.

LiteraryEvents

Black Cat Book Signing, a chance to meet with local authors and expert moms Molly Wingate and Marti Woodward, whose book *Slow Parenting Teens* encourages parents to focus on relationship in order to create a positive, respectful family atmosphere. Wed., Dec. 12, 5-7:30 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1589, manitoubooks.com.

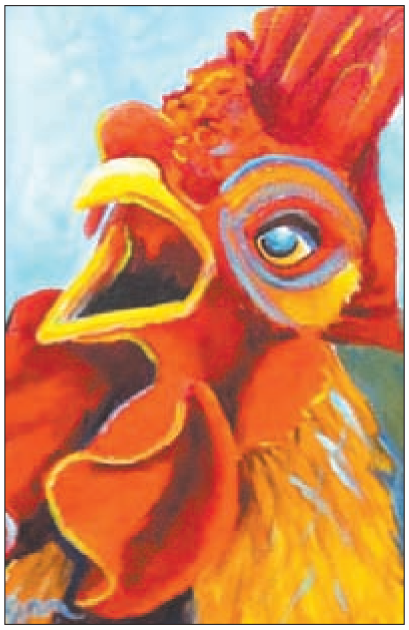
Broadmoor Book Signing, author Zisa Moglen will sign her memoir *Second Lamppost on the Left: Stories From My Brooklyn Neighborhood*. Sat., Dec. 15, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 634-7711, broadmoor.com.

"Hear Here" Poetry Open-mic, an all-ages poetry open-mic hosted by Poetry 719. Second and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 964-4499, tinyurl.com/hearhere719.

Publishing Panel, a chance for aspiring authors to learn the ins and outs of self-publishing from publishers and writers who have done it. Thurs., Dec. 13, 3 p.m. $5-10. Center for Powerful Living, 635 Southpointe Court, #220, 448-9000, info@centerforpowerfulliving.com, centerforpowerfulliving.com.

Rocky Mountain Haiku Group, a meeting for Japanese poetry enthusiasts: write, read and discuss. Sun., Dec. 16, 2-4 p.m. Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 540-2038, medcafe-co.com.

The Story Project, a panel of actors and storytellers take the stage for this edition of Smokebrush's live, unscripted storytelling event. Fri., Dec. 14, 7 p.m. $5. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, facebook.com/events/102685273232128/?ref=ts&fref=ts.



PICK **Fare Bella Studio and Gallery,** 16 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 720/226-4315. *100 for $100*, a holiday art show featuring original works by Tracy Miller, Coni Grant, Patti Filler, Laura Reilly and more. Also held in Tracy Miller Fine Art. Through Dec. 31.

Word Wednesdays, an open-mic session for poets, comedians, actors, singers and other performers to share their work. Search the event on Facebook for more. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 313-0683.

Museums&Attractions

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon St., 385-5990, cspm.org. *To the Moon: Snoopy Soars With NASA*, an exhibit exploring the events leading up to the 1969 moon landing and the role Charles M. Schulz's Peanuts characters played in the Apollo 10 launch and the NASA Manned Flight Awareness safety program. Schultz was also once a Springs resident, which will be another part of the show. Through April 20. *From Paris to the Plains: The Artistry of Artus & Anne Van Briggle*, a showcase of 150 pieces of pottery reflecting the high innovation and craftsmanship of the Van Briggles.

Manitou Springs Heritage Center, 517 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1454, manitousspringsheritagecenter.org. *Charles Christopher Parry: King of Colorado Botany*, an exhibition of contemporary herbarium specimens and botanical watercolor paintings in celebration of Parry's expedition to Pikes Peak.

PICK **The Money Museum,** 818 N. Cascade Ave., 632-2646, money.org. *History of Money*, an exhibition on the different forms, shapes and uses money has had over the past 10,000 years. Mini-Mint Demonstration, a demonstration of a mini screw press in action, which will produce commemorative coins visitors can take home. Third Saturday of every month, noon to 4 p.m. Free.

National Museum of World War II Aviation, 755 Aviation Way, 637-7559, worldwarIIaviation.org. National Museum of World War II Aviation tours, a new museum featuring aircraft from the WWII era, including a P47D Thunderbolt, TBM Avenger as well as aircraft undergoing restoration, such as the P38 Lightning. The museum is open three days a week currently, and offers docent-led tours Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. $5-$10, free for WWII generation.

SpecialEvents

Sustainability Craft Fair, a showcase of local art, food, crafts, and fair/free-trade goods. Sat., Dec. 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Manitou Springs High School, 401 El Monte Place, Manitou Springs, 685-2074, asurage@mssd14.org, sd14web.mssd14.k12.co.us.

Spirituality

The Pious Mind, the third annual Hanifen Center at Marian House Diocesan Forum, with featured speaker Rusty Reno. Thurs., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. Marian House, 14 W. Bijou St., 866-6443,

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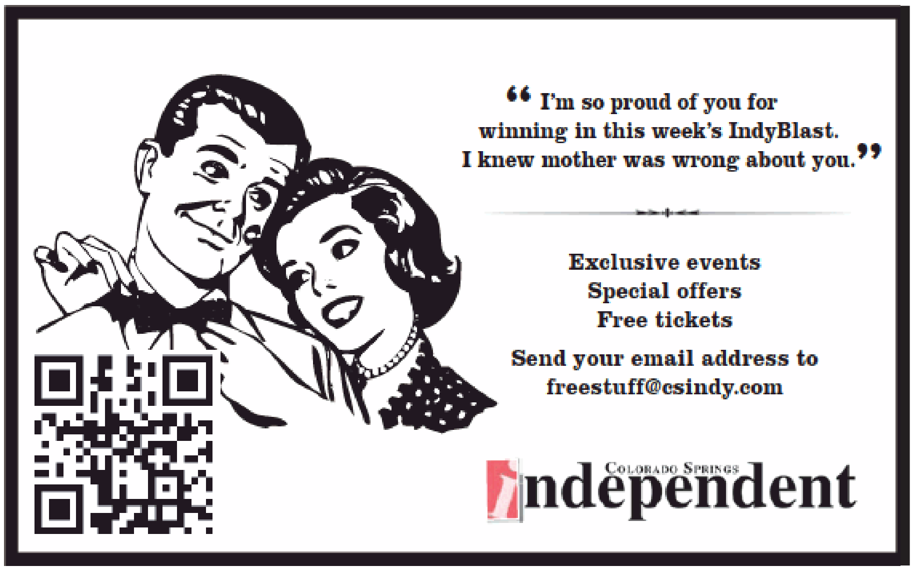
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The Gift, a performance of the original ballet from Ballet Emmanuel. Dec. 15-16. Free. CIVA Charter High School, 4635 Northpark Drive, 633-1306, balletemmanuel.org.

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Remembrance Service, a special candlelight service to remember those who have gone before. Thurs., Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m. Woodmen Valley Chapel, 290 E. Woodmen Road, 388-4972, woodmenvalley.org.

Springs Mountain Sangha, offering Zen meditation sessions Monday evenings from 6:10-8 p.m. (newcomers please arrive at 5:45); Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 a.m.; and Saturdays 6:30-8:30 a.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 685-1994, smszen.org.

Unchurch, a "back to basics" Christian gathering focused on positivity and the embrace of differences. Led by Rev. Diane Martin. Held at 21 N. Union Blvd., #201. First and third Tuesday of every month, 6 p.m. Free. 433-6616, info@unchurchcs.com, unchurchcs.com.

Weekly Spiritual Gathering, weekly, non-religious meet-ups with "laughter, song and great people." RSVP for more information. Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m. By donation. 433-9625, kenpeacecarroll@gmail.com.

Sports&Recreation

113th Audubon Christmas Bird Count, a "national citizen science event" in which the group will break off into teams and help count local birds. You can stay for the whole day, or just a portion, and all ages and abilities are welcome. RSVPs required. Sat., Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. $5 donation. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Life Time Academy Open House, a chance to check out employment opportunities in the health and fitness industry. Dec. 18-19. Free. Life Time Fitness, 4410 Royal Pine Drive, 651/265-9914, ltacademy.net.

Sk-8-Strong's Deck the Ramps, a holiday fest hosted by the local skating nonprofit, featuring a mini-ramp competition, a vert session, music, and drinks from Dutch Bros. Attendees are encouraged to bring a string of lights or garland to deck the ramp, and canned goods or a monetary donation for Springs Rescue Mission. Sun., Dec. 16, 1-5 p.m. Memorial Park, 1605 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 776-0719.

Vinyasa for Beginners, a class that breaks down the sequence of vinyasa flow, focusing on improving alignment, breath control and overall knowledge of poses. Sat., Dec. 15, 10:30-11:30 a.m. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 321-8547, cambioyoga.com.

Stage

Aladdin, Jr., a performance by the Pikes Peak Regional Center Stage group. Call 573-0841 for reservations. Sat., Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Temple Beit Torah, 522 E. Madison St., 573-0841, beit-torah.org.

Babette's Holiday Cabaret, a variety show, complete with comedy, music and more, sure to "melt even the most jaded of spirits." Sat., Dec. 15, 8 p.m. $15. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Moonlight & Magnolias, a comedy set during the filming of *Gone With the Wind* by the Impossible Players. Through Dec. 22. Impossible Playhouse, 1201 N. Main St., Pueblo, 719/542-6969, impossibleplayers.org.

Willy Wonka, a musical performance of Roald Dahl's book by the conservatory's Junior Stage Company. Dec. 15-16. $10. CC's Armstrong Hall, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6000, coloradospringsconservatory.org.

WYNOT Radio Theatre: It Came Upon a Midnight Deadly, a holiday performance from the WYNOT Radio Theatre troupe. Dec. 13-30. $15. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Music Room, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5583, csfineartscenter.org.

You Can't Take It With You, a TheatreWorks performance of George Kaufman's comedic play about family tension, which won the 1937 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Through Dec. 23. $35, $15 for kids under 16. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado seeks volunteers to help out Mondays through Saturdays. It's also seeking "lead volunteers" who can commit to one or two days a week. Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado, 2605 Preamble Point, 434-5724, careandshare.org.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance seeks an experienced grant writer for local nonprofit serving individuals and families affected by mood disorders. Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 2132 E. Bijou, #112, 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers, massage therapy volunteers (must be licensed), healing touch volunteers (must be certified). Training provided. Please call 265-1109 for more.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist, pet therapist or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

SolAmor Hospice seeks volunteers to provide pet therapy to its terminally ill patients. 226-0091, solamorhospice.com.

STS Foundation seeks host families for international students spending a year in America. 800/522-4678, stsfoundation.org.

YFU-USA is seeking families to host exchange students for the upcoming school year. 866/493-**8872,** yfu-usa.org.

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They could be related to the events above, or other experiences we've shared — in arts, business, the environment, recreation, whatever. Our goal is to put together an end-of-year project that captures 2012 as it's looked to many people who lived it in the Pikes Peak region.

Submit your photos at least 5x7 and 200 dpi to newsroom@csindy.com by Wednesday, Dec. 19. Please include your full name. *(If you've got a really great shot and you aren't sure if it meets the size requirements, send it anyway. We'll let you know!)*

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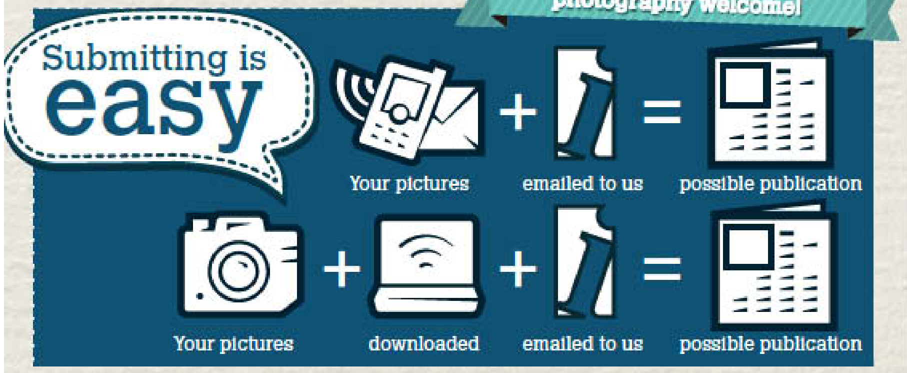

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StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

A British court convicted Emmanuel Jerome, 23, of burglary after police discovered a video recording of the break-in on his iPhone. Bradford Crown Court heard that Jerome thought he had switched on a flashlight app on the phone to find his way but instead activated the camera. (Britain's *Daily Mail*)

A cleaning person arrived for work one morning at a social club in Boldon Colliery, England, to find owner Kim Collins, 42, bound to a chair with her mouth taped. Collins explained that a masked man had woken her in the night, dragged her along the hallways to turn off the alarm, then tied her up before snorting a bag of cocaine, emptying the safe and fleeing.

Suspicious detectives discovered the alarm had been deactivated only 40 minutes before the cleaning person got there. Outside security cameras showed nobody arriving earlier that night, and investigators found Collins' saliva on the cable ties binding her wrists. Collins admitted making up the incident to convince her boyfriend-business partner that they should sell the club and move away, explaining she got the idea from watching the television show *CSI*. "This lady clearly thought this was a good idea in the short term but hadn't realized how the police would deal with it," her attorney, David Forrester, said. (South Tyneside's *The Shields Gazette*)

Economy boosters

After Maine, Maryland and Washington voters approved same-sex marriages, The Williams Institute, a national think tank at the UCLA School of Law, estimated that nearly 18,000 same-sex couples will exchange vows in the next three years, generating $166 million in wedding spending, boosting tax revenue and creating jobs. Six states and the District of Columbia where gay weddings have been legal have already benefited economically. (Associated Press)

Washington and Colorado anticipate an influx of tourists after voters approved marijuana possession by both state residents and out-of-staters. Likeliest to benefit are Colorado's ski resorts, which, according to the resort association Colorado Ski Country USA's Jennifer Rudolph are "closely" watching the development of marijuana tourism. "If people want to come to Colorado because pot is legal, and that's the sole reason, it's up to them," said Pitkin County Sheriff Joe DiSalvo, whose jurisdiction includes Aspen. "I am not the lifestyle police." (Associated Press)

Your tax dollars

After receiving $29 million in federal stimulus money, the Army Corps of Engineers ordered a harbor built on the Aleutian island, Akutan. Its 58 slips remain empty because the harbor lacks electricity, running water and a road to the fishing village two miles away. Officials estimate the road will cost at least $22 million because the route must be blasted through steep cliffs ringing Akutan Bay. Conceding lack of infrastructure has prevented building harbors in the past, Steve Boardman, head of the Corps' civil projects division, said an exception was made for Akutan because of the harbor's strategic importance. Akutan has a brand-new airport on a neighboring island that also isn't being used because access is difficult — except by boat. (*Anchorage Daily News*)

Invaded from within

Thirty-six percent of the people asked about their privacy once police are permitted to use drones to track suspects said they're "not too concerned" or "not concerned at all." The Associated Press-National Constitution Center poll found that 35 percent of Americans are "extremely concerned" or "very concerned," and 24 percent are only "somewhat concerned." (Associated Press)

As facial-recognition technology improves, businesses anticipate using signs and billboards able to identify people and track other ads they've seen recently, then adjust ads to tastes and buying history. "Something has to be done," Justin Brookman, director for consumer privacy at the Center for Democracy and Technology, insists, "because otherwise we are living in a world of ubiquitous identity where you can't walk out your front door." One proposal to regulate the growing "data-mine" of raw video and photography is a comprehensive privacy law, administered by a "privacy commissioner." (*The Washington Times*)

Silver lining

Hurricane Sandy generated 5,000 jobs for New Yorkers being hired for cleanup and rebuilding efforts. Federal and state officials say the jobs, funded by $27 million in federal Labor Department money, pay about $15 per hour and will last about six months. In addition, the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency expect to hire another 700 temps for administrative and community relations positions. (Associated Press)

Gender issues

A Canadian lawmaker who proposed designating safe parking spaces just for women received e-mails expressing outrage. "Some people perceive it as sexist, that, 'I don't need your help,'" said Stephen Chase, a city councilor and deputy mayor in Fredericton, New Brunswick, noting he got the idea after seeing such spots at a German parking garage. Insisting that women-only parking has no public support, Mayor Brad Woodside announced his opposition, declaring, "It is our responsibility to provide safe parking for all of our citizens." (*The Toronto Star*)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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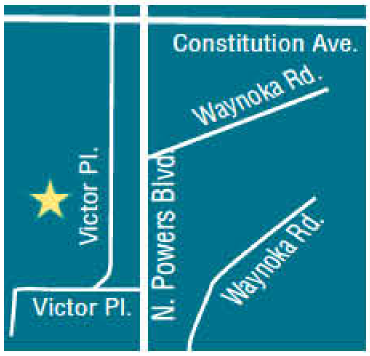

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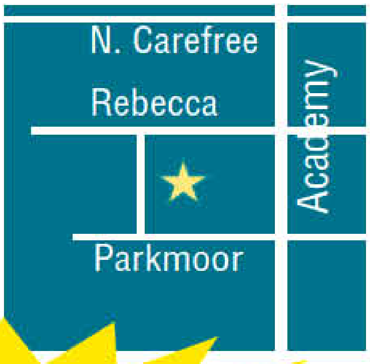

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Medical marijuana news of the week

Rocky Mountain miracle

Thursday marked another victory for Colorado Springs' medical marijuana community, and another defeat for District Attorney Dan May and his team. After a nine-month legal battle, a jury found **Ali Hillery**, founder of local dispensary Rocky Mountain Miracles, **not guilty** of felony charges of cultivation and possession with the intent to manufacture or distribute a controlled substance.

During a March 19 inspection, the Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division claimed to have discovered a 600-plus plant discrepancy between the number of plants at Rocky Mountain Miracles, and the plant allowance as defined by MMED records. After reportedly rejecting several plea deals that would have ended her family's business, Hillery and her defense team argued this was a minor bookkeeping error, as opposed to any of the major offenses — which alleged criminal intent — leveled against her.

Following what local MMJ advocate KC Stark called in a release "an aggressive offense"-of-a-defense led by attorney Sean McAllister, which called a veritable who's who of the MMJ community to the stand, a jury sided with the so-called "Granny of Ganja."

Hillery joins a slew of not-guilty verdict recipients, such as Bob Crouse, Elisa Kappelmann and Jesse Vriese. (Next up: Cannabis Therapeutics' Mike Lee, who faces similar charges this week.) And like some of them, she may go on to seek compensation for the confiscated plants. Stark reports that Rocky Mountain Miracles' lost plants and 36 pounds of cannabis caused "financial devastation."

Keef crumbs

- Though Amendment 64 is now signed into law (see p. 18), the state of **Washington** officially beat Colorado to the legalization punch by enacting Initiative 502 last Thursday. From midnight of that day, of-age Washingtonians possessing up to an ounce of cannabis no longer did so illegally.

"Hundreds gathered at Seattle Center for a New Year's Eve-style countdown to 12 a.m., when the legalization measure passed by voters last month took effect," the Associated Press reported. "When the clock struck, they cheered and sparked up in unison."

- The *Denver Post* reports that University of Colorado President **Bruce Benson** sent an e-mail to alumni late Friday night, warning of dire financial consequences to the public university following 64's passage.

"Marijuana threatens to cost the university nearly a billion dollars annually in federal revenue ..." Benson reportedly wrote. "The glaring practical problem is that we stand to lose significant federal funding. CU must comply with the federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, which compels us to ban illicit drugs from campus."

According to the *Post*, legalization advocates led by U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, D-Boulder, were quick to claim that the amendment does nothing to prevent the university from continuing to ban marijuana from its campuses.

— ***Wyatt Miller***

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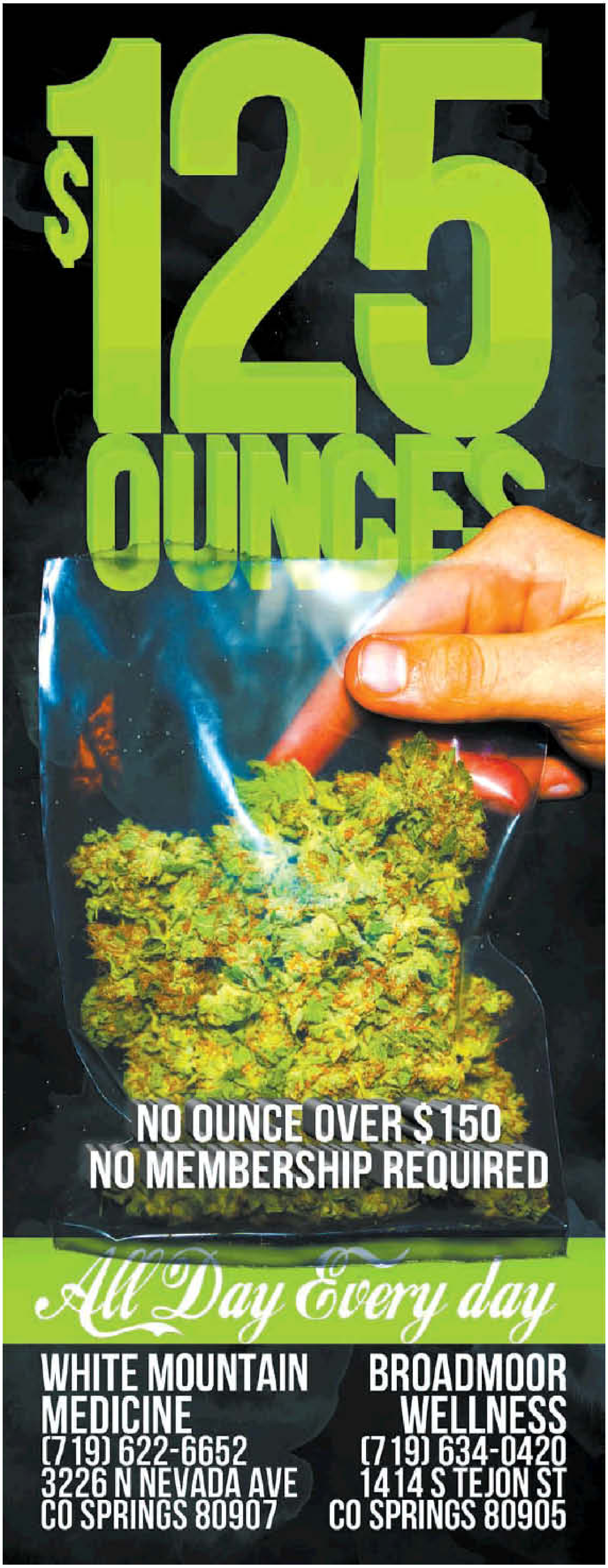

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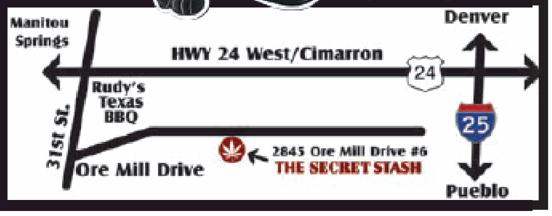

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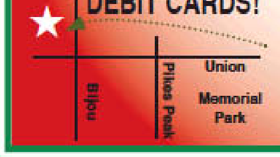

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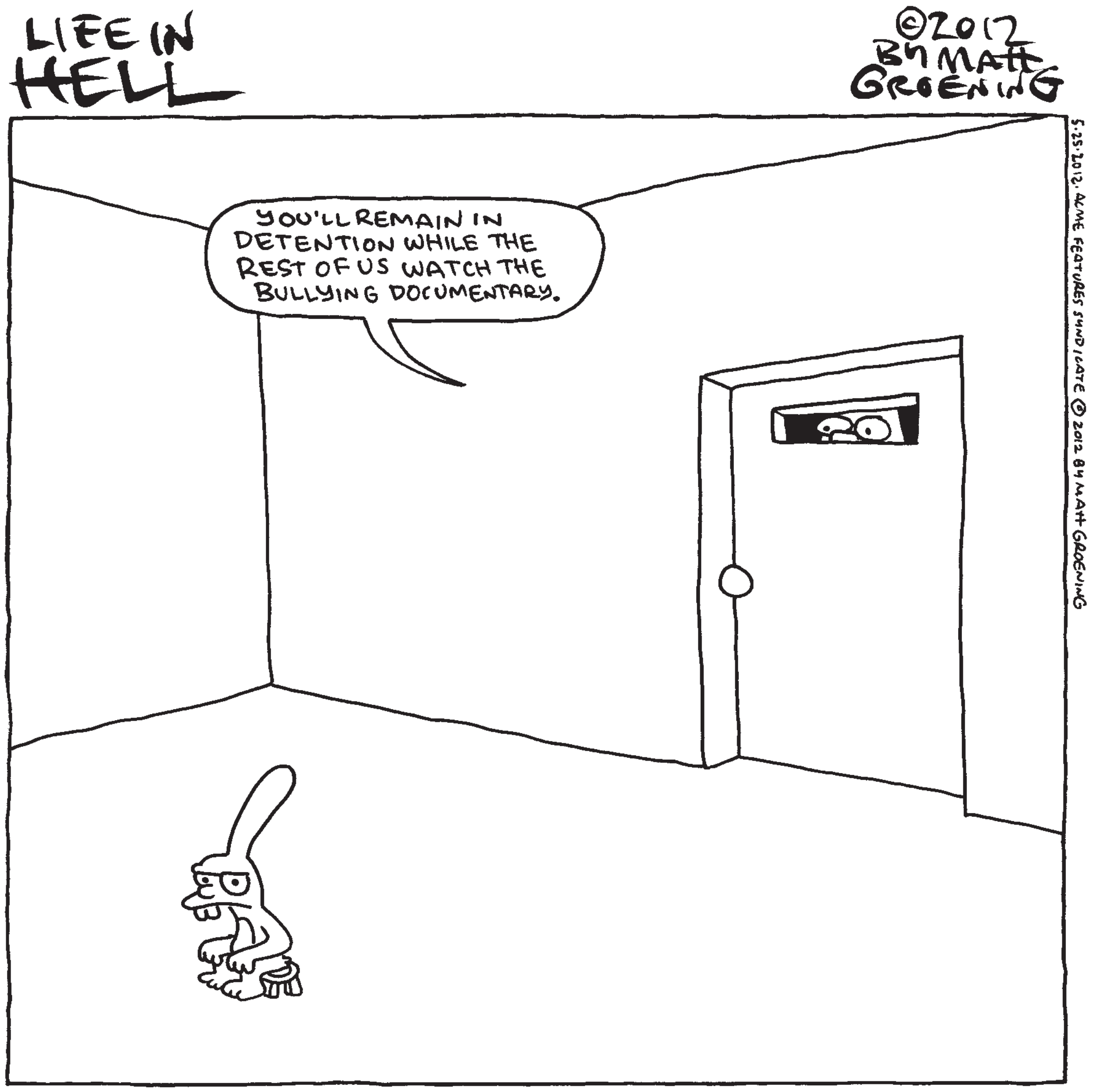
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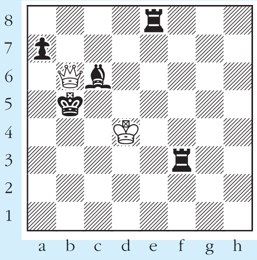

BLACK'S WORST MOVE?
Hint: It allows a draw.

For puzzle answers, see page 70

independent

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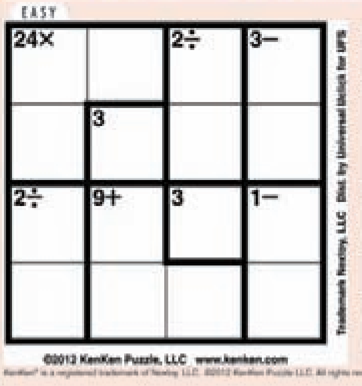

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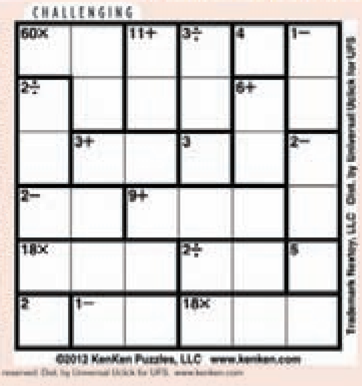

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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 70

❶ Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
❷ The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
❸ Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

Jenny from the blocked

I appreciate that you tell it like it is instead of telling people what they want to hear. I heard you on the radio saying that an online dating site isn't a very good venue for women over 40 who aren't very physically attractive. Honestly, on a scale of 1 to 10, I'm probably a 5. My marriage ended last year, and I'm ready to start dating again. Should I bother with online at all? — Realistic

Like the 24-year-old, part-time model you're competing with on the online dating site, you are female and have owned swimsuits. In fact, you'd wear that same tiny little gold bikini she's got on in her profile pic — if it were socially acceptable to go out on the town in a little gold sleep mask.

Online dating is like going to a very snobby bar where everybody has the attention span of a firefly. People do find love and even marriage online, but those most likely to get lucky are hot 22-year-old women just looking to get lucky. Hot 40-something women will get dates, but because guys tend to go for younger women, many of those messaging them are one foot out of the nursing home (if they aren't using the computer in the nursing home's Activity Room to troll for younger meat).

The problem for anyone dating online is that the format — endless choice — is overwhelming to our quaint little human brains, according to research by social psychologist Dr. Sheena Iyengar. Although we think having loads of options is ideal, when presented with more than a handful, we often choose poorly and are bummed out afterward, or we find ourselves unable to choose at all. So, like a rat pushing a lever for more cocaine, even a man who sincerely wants a relationship and who's just gotten home from a promising date often can't help but make a beeline for the computer. (There's always another one ... thousand where that last one came from. No need to stop and smell the 45-year-old roses.)

Online dating is like going to a very snobby bar.

Especially for women who are over 40 and physically underfabulous, a more fruitful, less confidence-eating option is a group meet-up site like meetup.com or grubwithus.com, where you sign up for group dinners and other activities with people who share your interests. Some groups have hundreds or thousands of members, and the criterion for joining is whether you, say, like to combine tennis and Bible study, not whether you have a waist the size of a chewed pencil.

Also, online, the risk of humiliation is low for a guy who's a 5 messaging a woman who's a 9.6 (on the off chance she's bored with rich guys with movie-star looks). In person, it becomes clear that he can either go home alone for the rest of his life or go for the more evenly matched. That's when he starts talking to the nice 5 lady on his right — giving you a chance to sparkle in a way you can't online. But, all the better if you sparkle inside and out. (Get *Staging Your Comeback* by Christopher Hopkins.)

A little money smeared around in the hair, wardrobe and makeup departments can be a powerful thing. Without it, as you see in shots of famous actresses caught sans makeup and groovywear, even stunning women can end up looking like they've taken a break from picking their pimples in the doublewide to duck into the holler and shoot a squirrel for dinner.

Spawn Juan

I'm a woman whose online dating profile states: "If you have or want kids, we are NOT compatible. Move on. Non-negotiable! I don't care if you think your kids are different. They're not." Yet, somehow, men with kids read this and still ping me! Are they stupidly optimistic? Horrifically lacking in reading comprehension? — Nobody's stepmom

Maybe they hope it'll be like getting a 6-year-old to eat his green beans: They'll just pour some ranch dressing on the kid and you'll find him appealing.

Your irritation is understandable. What about "No kids/non-negotiable!" says, "Octodad, I've been waiting all my life for you"? The answer is, you're hot. I'm guessing you are, anyway. In the face of female hotitude, men have an incredible capacity to rationalize: "Shouldn't have to miss out on a babe just because I got some girl pregnant in high school!" or "You'll change your mind when you see what a sexy beast I am." Consider it an attractiveness tax, and focus on the joys of unparenthood, like how to spend the estimated $200K you're saving (by not having kids) on white carpet, sharp-edged furniture and homeschooling your cat.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave, #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): For the last six decades of his life, Pablo Picasso created art that was adventurous and experimental. He didn't invent abstract painting, but he was instrumental in popularizing it. Yet earlier he was a master of realism, with an impressive ability to capture the nuances of human anatomy. Commenting on Picasso's evolution, travel writer Rick Steves says when he was young, "he learned the rules he would later so skillfully break." I suspect you're in a phase of your own development when you could profit from doing the same thing. So I ask: What rules are so ripe for you to bend and twist as you graduate to a more mature level of self-expression?

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Can you manage to be both highly alert and deeply relaxed? Could you be wildly curious and yet also serenely reflective? Can you imagine yourself being extra hungry to crack life's secrets but also at peace with your destiny exactly the way it is? If you can honestly answer yes to those questions, you'll get a lot of help in the coming week. The universe may even seem to be conspiring to educate you and heal you. You will receive a steady flow of clues about how to get closer to living your dreams.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In the coming week, you would be wise to deal with your vulnerability, fallibility, and your personal share of the world's darkness. If you refuse, either out of laziness or fear, I'm worried you will reinforce a status quo that needs to be overthrown. You may end up rationalizing your mistakes, clinging to false pride, and running away from challenges that could make you smarter and stronger. Don't do that, Taurus! Be brave. Be willing to see what's difficult to see. There will be big rewards if you choose to explore the weaker and less mature parts of your personality.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): In the 1968 Olympics, Bob Beamon broke the world long-jump record. His leap was so far beyond the previous mark that the optical device designed to calculate it didn't work. Officials had to resort to an old-fashioned measuring tape. After that, the word "Beamonesque" came to signify a feat that vastly outstripped all previous efforts. According to my analysis, you Geminis will have an excellent chance to be Beamonesque in 2013. I expect that you will at least surpass your own peak levels of accomplishment. If you have not yet launched your ascent, get started now.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The fire ants that invaded the southern U.S. back in the 1930s are an annoyance. They swarm and bite and sting. The venom they inject makes their victims feel like they've been burned. Two communities have decided to make the best of the situation. Auburn, Ga., and Marshall, Texas, both stage annual Fire Ant Festivals, with events like the Fire Ant Call, the Fire Ant Round-Up, and the Fire Ant Chili Cook-Off. (To win the latter, your dish must contain at least one fire ant.) Maybe their example could inspire you, Cancerian. Is there any pest you could develop a more playful and festive relationship with? Could you possibly turn into the equivalent of a Fire Ant Whisperer?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): While reading William Kittredge's book *The Nature of Generosity*, I learned about the oldest known sentence written in ancient Greek. It was inscribed on a wine jug that dates back to 740 B.C. Translated into English, it says, "Who now of all dancers sports most playfully?" Another possible translation is "Which of these dancers plays most delicately?" I'd love to make something like that be your mantra in the coming week, Leo. The time is right for you to do more dancing and playing and sporting than usual — and to seek out companions who'd like to help you achieve record-breaking levels of those recreational activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In the movie *Groundhog Day*, Bill Murray plays a man who gets trapped in a time loop. Over and over, he experiences the same 24 hours. When he wakes up each morning, it's still Feb. 2. At first it drives him crazy, pushing him to the verge of suicide. But eventually he decides to use his time wisely. He becomes a skilled pianist and a fluent French speaker. He does good deeds and saves people's lives. He even learns what he needs to do to win the heart of the woman he desires. This transformation turns out to be the key to gaining his freedom. Near the end of the film, he escapes to Feb. 3. A comparable opportunity is looming for you, Virgo. You have a chance to break a spell you've been under or slip away from a rut you've been in. Generosity may play a major role.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Events in the immediate future may have resemblances to reading a boring book that's packed with highly useful information. You might feel that there's a disjunction between the critical clues you need to gather and the ho-hum style in which they are offered. It's OK to be a bit disgruntled by this problem as long as you promise to remain alert for the partially disguised goodies. Don't fall asleep in the middle of the unspectacular lesson.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): "Instinct tells us that sharks are more deadly than delicious fatty foods," writes Jason Daley in *Discover* magazine. But "instinct is wrong," he adds. In fact, eating food that tastes good but is actually bad for us is a far greater threat than shark bites. That's just one example of how our uneducated urges can sometimes lead us astray. I invite you to keep this possibility in mind during the coming week, Scorpio. It's by no means certain that you will be misled by your natural inclinations, but it is crucial that you monitor them with acute discernment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Through some cosmic intervention, a sad or bad or mad story will get tweaked prior to the final turn of the plot. Just as you're getting ready to nurse your regrets, an X-factor or wild card will appear, transforming the meaning of a series of puzzling events. This may not generate a perfectly happy ending, but it will result in an interesting and redemptive climax. What is the precise nature of that X-factor or wild card? Perhaps a big secret will be revealed or some missing evidence will arrive or a mental block will crumble. It's likely that you will have an epiphany about how valuable your problem has actually been.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Have you had any of these symptoms? 1. Lack of interest in trivial matters and a yearning for big, holy mysteries. 2. Unfamiliar but interesting impulses rising up and demanding consideration. 3. Fresh insights into people and situations you've known a long time. 4. An altered sense of the flow of time. 5. Out-of-the-blue recall of long-forgotten memories. If you haven't experienced any of the above, I must be totally off in my analysis and this horoscope isn't for you. But if you've had even two of these symptoms, you are on schedule to get what those of us in the consciousness industry call a "religious experience."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You might be able to teach a statue to talk this week — or at least coax a useful message out of a stone-like person. You could also probably extract a delicious clue from out of the darkness or wrangle a tricky blessing from an adversary or find a small treasure hidden in a big mess. In short, you now have a knack for accessing beauty and truth in unexpected sources. You can see what everyone else is blind to and love what everyone else has given up on. You're practically a superhero. Use your powers wisely, my friend. Be benevolently unpredictable.

HOMEWORK: In the astrological worldview, this week is the last gasp of the yearly cycle. A good way to celebrate is to bid farewell to outworn approaches and lost causes. Tell me if you do. Freewillastrology.com

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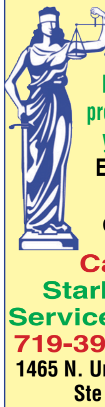

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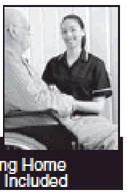

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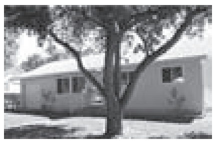

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PAGE 44

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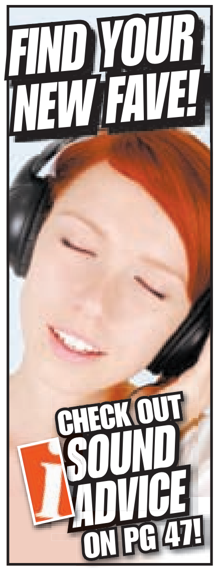
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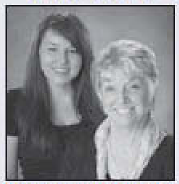

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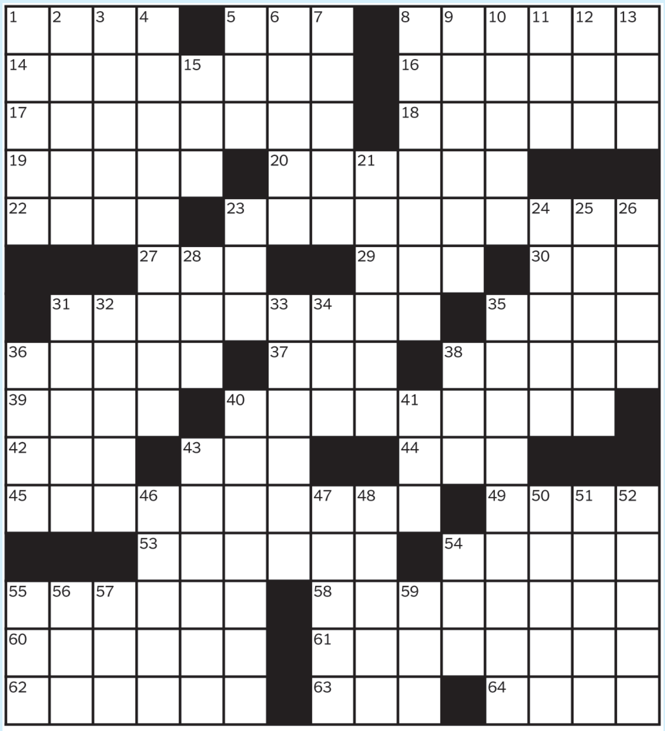
The New York Times Crossword



ACROSS

1 Automaker with the slogan "Born from jets"
5 Wee hour
8 Fazes
14 Israel's first representative to the United Nations
16 Far from klutzy
17 Nonsensical syllables, maybe
18 They may be followed by trains
19 French place of learning
20 Reynolds who sang "Tammy"
22 Bris or baptism
23 Unbeatable hand
27 Part of a 23-Across
29 Find a tenant for
30 Educ. supporter
31 Elite military group
35 Phaser setting
36 Like the Capitol
37 Wee, to Burns
38 Revealing beachwear
39 So-called "albatross"
40 Sport for high jumpers?
42 Some appliances
43 Bestow, to Burns
44 Arctic explorer John
45 Some Caribbean percussion
49 Superboy's sweetie
53 Nap in Nogales
54 Madison Ave. figure
55 Sicilian smoker
58 Something to sing … or a hint to 17-, 23-, 31-, 40- and 45-Across's starts
60 For mature audiences, say
61 Like some compact discs
62 Jeans measure
63 On Soc. Sec., often
64 Methods

DOWN

1 Something that may be rattled
2 Early adders
3 Prior's superior
4 Flavorings for some stews
5 Not yet filled: Abbr.
6 Well-hidden fellow of children's books
7 Well-pitched
8 Acts the dilettante
9 Floating aimlessly
10 Archangel of the Apocrypha
11 Signal approval
12 Reason for a 10th inning
13 Luke, John and others: Abbr.
15 Season after printemps
21 Many a love song
23 Object in court
24 Sinclair who wrote "The Jungle"
25 Smarted
26 Pal around (with)
28 Charisse of "Silk Stockings"
31 Large combo
32 Tickle the funny bone
33 Glacial ridges
34 With 56-Down, "The Joy Luck Club" author
35 Statute that protects journalists' sources
36 Follows persistently
38 Dam agcy.
40 Pistol, for one
41 Form letters?
43 Baum's good witch
46 Lauder of cosmetics
47 Out-and-out
48 1984 Olympic slalom champ Phil
50 Resort isle near Curaçao
51 Hockey great Cam
52 Some recesses
54 Crunch targets
55 CAT scan alternative
56 See 34-Down
57 Sci-fi figures
59 Do lunch

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 70

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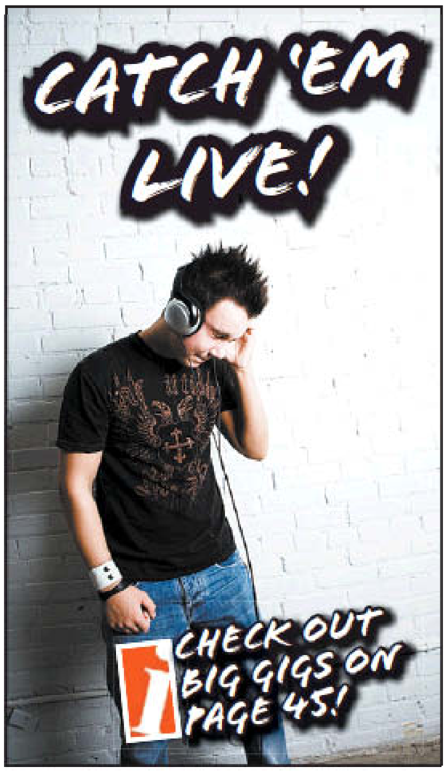
CATCH 'EM LIVE!
CHECK OUT BIG GIGS ON PAGE 45!

2		8				5		3
		1			9			
9	4							7
1								
8	3		9	1	6		4	5
								8
3							8	4
			4			3		
4		5				7		9

SUDUKO X

Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 70

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EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Picking the bowl outcomes

You might think it would be easy, predicting the winners of bowl games every year as has been the ritual in this space.

In truth, it's exasperating. The bowls' selection committees are trying to create close matchups, and they often succeed. Also, you never know which teams will come up flat and which ones will play their best of the year, in spite of the odds and their regular-season performance.

The past two years, my record has been the same: 19-16 overall, 4-1 in the Bowl Championship Series. Can't remember ever doing better than that. The best pick a year ago was forecasting that Boise State would hammer Arizona State 57-24 in the Las Vegas Bowl. Actual score: 56-24.

Anyway, here's the new list of bowl picks, with games starting Saturday:

New Mexico, Dec. 15: Arizona 34, Nevada 23. Nevada wasn't the same after losing at Air Force.

Idaho Potato, Dec. 15: Utah State 31, Toledo 27. Should be highly entertaining to the end.

Poinsettia, Dec. 20: San Diego State 23, BYU 20. Like old times for the former league rivals.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 21: Ball State 27, UCF 17. Two teams that deserve more respect.

New Orleans, Dec. 22: East Carolina 35, Louisiana-Lafayette 31. Conference USA beats Sun Belt.

Las Vegas, Dec. 22: Boise State 26, Washington 24. Broncos are down but not that far.

Hawai'i, Dec. 24: Fresno State 41, SMU 20. Great season for Fresno coach (and Air Force graduate) Tim DeRuyter.

Little Caesars, Dec. 26: Central Michigan 19, Western Kentucky 16. Hardly anyone cares, except now Bobby Petrino is taking over at Western Kentucky.

Military, Dec. 27: San Jose State 33, Bowling Green 24. Best season for San Jose State in years, and coach Mike MacIntyre is heading for Colorado.

Belk, Dec. 27: Cincinnati 34, Duke 28. Bearcats lost their coach but not their offense.

Holiday, Dec. 27: UCLA 37, Baylor 34. This bowl always seems to have crazy shootouts.

Independence, Dec. 28: La.-Monroe 31, Ohio 24. Both started fast and faded late.

Russell Athletic, Dec. 28: Rutgers 16, Virginia Tech 14. Rutgers nearly made it to a BCS bowl.

Meineke Car Care, Dec. 28: Texas Tech 25, Minnesota 21. Red Raiders still can score.

Armed Forces, Dec. 29: Air Force 38, Rice 24. Healthy Falcons salvage a winning year.

Pinstripe, Dec. 29: Syracuse 24, West Virginia 23. What happened to the Mountaineers?

Fight Hunger, Dec. 29: Arizona State 34, Navy 19. Middies can't keep up with revived Arizona State.

Alamo, Dec. 29: Oregon State 30, Texas 16. Longhorns aren't as good as their record.

Buffalo Wild Wings, Dec. 29: TCU 17, Michigan State 13. Horned Frogs hang on.

Music City, Dec. 31: Vanderbilt 37, N.C. State 13. Vandy has something to prove in this one, and it's a home game in Nashville.

Sun, Dec. 31: Southern Cal 55, Georgia Tech 21. Mismatch, with Trojans running it up.

Liberty, Dec. 31: Iowa State 37, Tulsa 30. Cyclones are more dangerous than Hurricanes.

Chick-fil-A, Dec. 31: LSU 20, Clemson 16. This could be a good test for LSU's defense.

Gator, Jan. 1: Northwestern 31, Mississippi State 29. First bowl win for Wildcats since the 1940s.

Heart of Dallas, Jan. 1: Oklahoma State 34, Purdue 21. No trouble for OSU; Purdue changing coaches.

Outback, Jan. 1: Michigan 24, South Carolina 17. Denard Robinson ends his college career happily.

Capital One, Jan. 1: Georgia 40, Nebraska 24. Huskers shellshocked after lopsided Big Ten loss.

Rose Bowl, Jan. 1: Wisconsin 27, Stanford 23. Picking a surprise as Badgers lean on Montee Ball.

Orange, Jan. 1: Florida State 30, Northern Illinois 27. Much closer than people expect.

Sugar, Jan. 2: Florida 23, Louisville 20. Almost an upset, but not quite; Gators overrated.

Fiesta, Jan. 3: Oregon 47, Kansas State 33. Ducks deserved more at the end of this season.

Cotton, Jan. 4: Texas A&M 38, Oklahoma 35. Johnny Manziel outduels Landry Jones.

BBVA Compass, Jan. 5: Mississippi 19, Pittsburgh 17. Two teams with late momentum.

GoDaddy.com, Jan. 6: Kent State 34, Arkansas State 30. Both sides losing their head coaches.

BCS National Championship, Jan. 7: Alabama 37, Notre Dame 27. Tide offense carries the day, and Irish will be unable to keep up.

— routon@csindy.com

SPORTS SHOT

Redshirted University of Colorado basketball freshman Wesley Gordon of Colorado Springs (Sierra) will sit out this season, giving the 6-foot-8 forward eligibility from next fall into 2017.

The spread Air Force is a slender one-point favorite against Rice in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Next skipper Former major-leaguer Glenallen Hill, after six years as the Colorado Rockies' first-base coach, will manage the Colorado Springs Sky Sox in 2013, his first such experience.

This week's answers

SUDOKU

2	6	8	7	4	1	5	9	3
5	7	1	3	8	9	4	6	2
9	4	3	6	5	2	8	1	7
1	5	4	8	2	7	9	3	6
8	3	7	9	1	6	2	4	5
6	9	2	5	3	4	1	7	8
3	1	9	2	7	5	6	8	4
7	2	6	4	9	8	3	5	1
4	8	5	1	6	3	7	2	9

KENKEN

60× 5	3	11+ 6	3÷ 2	4 4	1− 1
2÷ 3	4	5	6	6+ 1	2
6	3+ 1	2	3 3	5	2− 4
2− 4	2	9+ 1	5	3	6
18× 1	6	3	2÷ 4	2	5 5
2 2	1− 5	4	18× 1	6	3

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24× 3	2	2÷ 1	3− 4
4	3 3	2	1
2÷ 1	9+ 4	3 3	1− 2
2	1	4	3

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Crossword

S	A	A	B	■	T	W	O	■	D	A	U	N	T	S
A	B	B	A	E	B	A	N	■	A	D	R	O	I	T
B	A	B	Y	T	A	L	K	■	B	R	I	D	E	S
E	C	O	L	E	■	D	E	B	B	I	E	■	■	■
R	I	T	E	■	R	O	Y	A	L	F	L	U	S	H
■	■	■	A	C	E	■	■	L	E	T	■	P	T	A
■	N	A	V	Y	S	E	A	L	S	■	S	T	U	N
D	O	M	E	D	■	S	M	A	■	T	H	O	N	G
O	N	U	S	■	S	K	Y	D	I	V	I	N	G	■
G	E	S	■	G	I	E	■	■	R	A	E	■	■	■
S	T	E	E	L	D	R	U	M	S	■	L	A	N	A
■	■	■	S	I	E	S	T	A	■	A	D	R	E	P
M	T	E	T	N	A	■	T	H	E	B	L	U	E	S
R	A	T	E	D	R	■	E	R	A	S	A	B	L	E
I	N	S	E	A	M	■	R	E	T	■	W	A	Y	S

CHESS QUIZ

From page 65:

1. … axb6 (allows White to draw by stalemate) [Andreikin-Nempmniachtchi '12].

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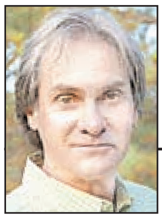

RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

Saluting the new Answer Man

The *Gazette* newspaper changed ownership two weeks ago, handed over by a greeting card salesman ("Roses are red, violets are blue, our content director is gone, with barely a boo hoo-hoo") to Colorado billionaire **Philip Anschutz**, who also owns the Broadmoor resort here in our village.

Now, along with your *Gazette* subscription you get a bellhop, candy on your pillow and a little bottle of mouthwash to help overcome the taste of the editorials.

What you don't get any more is **Barry Noreen**. Or at least the Barry Noreen we all came to know and ... well, uh, know.

Instead of his opinion column, Noreen was told he'll now write a "Did You Ever Wonder?" kind of column in which readers submit questions and he storms around the office yelling about "another stupid $%^&# ignorant $%^&*@ question."

I feel his pain.

In 2003, after some eight years as the *Gazette*'s humor columnist — which was not unlike being **Douglas Bruce**'s personality coach — I was told that I would henceforth be writing soft, puffy feature stories that would be of great and widespread interest to nobody.

I escaped to a Denver newspaper after my first *Gazette* feature story under the headline "Circles of Giving" in which I reported with great seriousness — I am not kidding — about how much of a Christmas tip you should give to your milkman. (Answer: It depends on how many of your children look like him.)

So now it's Noreen's turn under the bus. And because we were friends and got along pretty well back in the day — he didn't make fun of my lame jokes, and I tried not to say anything about guys who apparently cut their own hair — I'd now like to help him through his first few columns by submitting some questions.

Now it's Noreen's turn under the bus.

- What's older, Mayor **Steve Bach** or dirt? No, really, my friend says Bach dyes his hair and I say it's a rug. Who's right? Once I tried to touch his hair and it barked at me. Can it sit up?
- Speaking of hair, what's with county commissioner **Amy Lathen** and all her different colors? One day her hair is yellow and the next day it's brownish-green or something. Did she lose a bet?
- And why does City Councilwoman **Lisa Czedadkzx** ... **Czxzxadkt** ... the one who wears the floppy hats during meetings, seem to cry whenever the Council discusses emotional, sensitive, heart-wrenching social issues such as potholes or streetlights?
- Barry, you often talk about being from Montana and living the Western lifestyle. My question is, now that *Gazette* "content director" **Carmen Boles** is gone, will there be room in the office for your horse?
- Also, I hear that given her experience as "content director" of the *Gazette*, Boles may be considered for a new position as "sliding glass partition and meal transference director" of a drive-through window at McDonald's. I don't really have a question.
- Is Mayor Bach trying to sell our coal-fired power plant so he can go build a uranium-enrichment and missile-production facility like his late idol and management-style coach, **Kim Jong-il**? As a follow-up question, if that furry thing on our mayor's head comes into contact with uranium, will it develop atomic breath and crush Tokyo under its feet?
- Is Doug Bruce dead? I've heard little about him since he got out of jail. If he's alive, who slides his meals through the door now? Does he still shower with soap-on-a-rope?
- Why did our village "leaders" ban the poor and homeless from asking for money in our downtown area and yet seem to be OK every Friday and Saturday night with all the drunken driving, brawls and stabbings outside our 14,876 bars?
- And as another follow-up, could we train Mayor Bach's hair to patrol the downtown area on weekends? Could we put it on a leash and have it break up the riots by biting people?

Anyway, Barry, that's it from me. Good luck in your new assignment. And if I could offer one piece of advice, it would be this: Your new boss ... it's Mr. Anschutz. Not *Anschitz.*

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post**.

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